BIRD NOTES

VOL. II

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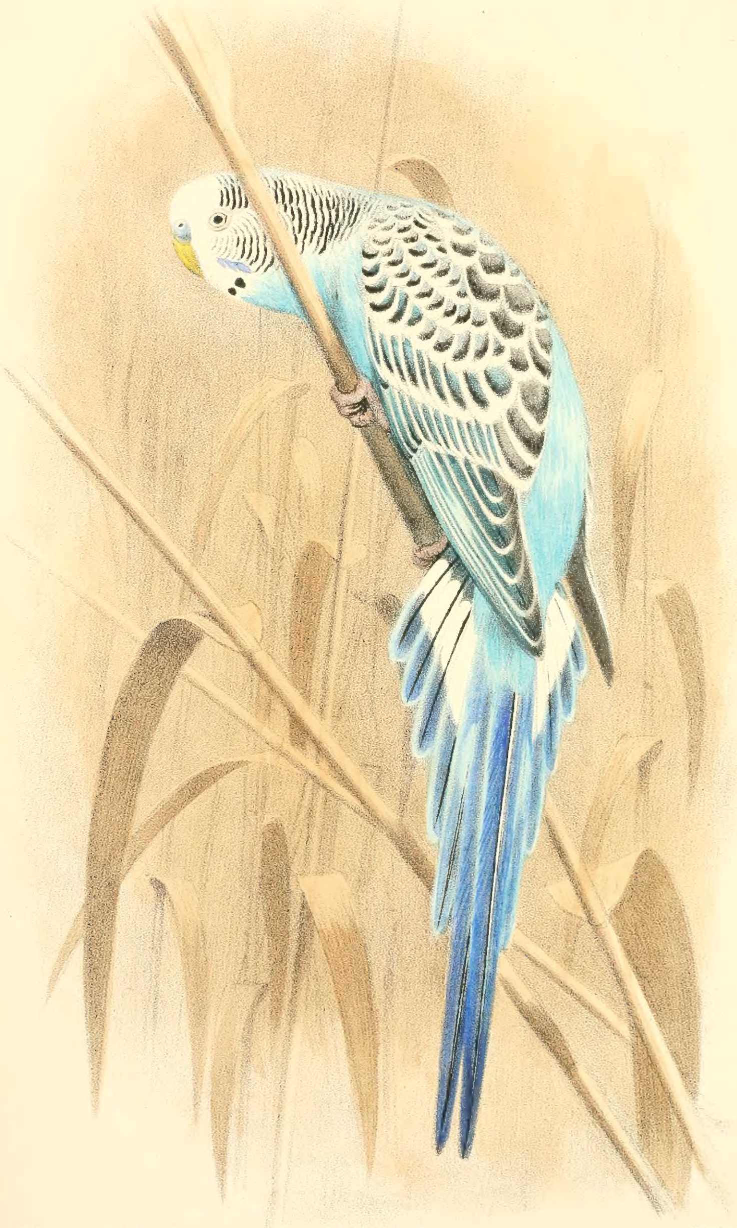

H. Goodchild del. et lith. Huth, imp.

BLUE BUDGERIGAR.

Melopsittacus undulatus, var. cœrulea.

From a living specimen in the collection of R. Pauwels Esq.re

BIRD NOTES.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS,
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY

VOLUME II.—NEW SERIES.

"By mutual confidence and mutual aid
Great deeds are done and great discoveries made."

EDITED BY

WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

Ashbourne:
J. H. Henstock, Market Place.
1911.

Erratum.

"Birds of Gambia," p. 250—Continued from p. 140—should read *Continued from p.* 198.

P. 297, line 4—Drooping-winged—should read *Drooping-tailed.*

P. 299, line 12—but to do so—should read *but to omit same.*

P. 300, line 41—Vol. V.—should read *Vol. VI.*

P. 314, line 15—(*E. scintillatus*)—should read (*C. scintillatus*).

P. 326, line 10—(*Alavada arvensis*)—should read (*Alauda arvensis*).

P. 326, line 30—At the same the—should read *At the same time the.*

13. 61983. Aug 29

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Sky Blue Budgerigars.

BY O. MILLSUM.

Hanging alongside other illustrations of charming birds in Mons. Pauvvels' birdroom, is a picture of Budgerrigars, depicting the original green, a pair of the now also common Yellow, and a pair of Blues. When I first saw that picture the idea struck me as being the work of some imaginative brain. Blue Budgerigars had been heard of in the past, as evidenced by the illustration just mentioned, and the fact that the plate is by no means of recent production, neither is the colour represented nearly as beautiful as that of the present specimens, still, I always had the impression it was one of the things we should hear of but never see. Often have I gazed at that picture, with longing eyes, but not once did I dream of ever seeing a living specimen, much less to keep a team, fine, robust, breeding somewhat freely, and always true to colour. It is, nevertheless a dream now fully realized.

I well remember being called to Mons. Pauvvels' side and the question asked—How would I like Blue Budgerigars ? How indeed ! was it possible ? Was there such a specimen living? If so, was it an isolated specimen and a freak? Such thoughts and many others crowded my mind with lightning rapidity, and for a few minutes I could scarcely think the question asked was made in all sincerity. Yes, indeed, I would like them, but again, was it possible to secure them ? It was. Mons. Pauvvels, with that keen avicultural zeal of his had discovered the whereabouts of the original strain, heard of by many, but seen by very, very few. We were fully cognisant that a Dutchman some 25 years ago had produced this charming variety, but at his death they had been disposed of, to whom and to what place they had been transferred remained unknown, until by sheer good luck and watchfulness, Mons. Pauvvels unearthed their obscurity. When once this knowledge had become ours, the next question was to secure all particulars, which were quickly forthcoming, only to confirm the facts already known, that the then lucky possessor, a lady living in a remote district of another country had secured the two pairs belonging to the Dutchman at his death, and not being deeply interested in aviculture, but like many others, kept birds for the love of them and their beauty, had during the intervening years kept these birds in her possession steadily, very steadily, I should imagine, breeding them.

Mons. Pauvvel's desire in bird life being to possess the unique, the next move was either to secure the existing lot, or as many as possible, and arrange for the monopoly of the others remaining in the lady's possession. The latter was the offer accepted, as the lady would not part with her old breeding pairs, and that is exactly how matters stand—the monopoly of these charming, unique, beautiful birds, remain in our hands at least for a few seasons, so it is unlikely they will become at all common for some years.

Blue Budgerigars—and a beautiful sky blue at that—no wonder they created a sensation at the recent L.C.B.A. Show. Admired by everyone, and more especially the ladies, for it is common knowledge that the delicate tint of sky blue always commands admiration from the fair sex. Such a colouring is rarely seen in natural plumage, so imagine if you can the beauty of a team of about twenty—with their body colouration of this charming and attractive colour, the deep royal blue chin spots, the clear white crown and finely picked out black and white wings—flitting about from perch to perch in a large outdoor aviary. It is a sight worth taking much trouble to see.

Baby Blue Budgerigars are equally charming, the nest feathers are of the same beautiful shade, but paler, the crown is finely pencilled with black, the deep blue chin spots are only slightly developed, and the black and white wing markings are somewhat indistinct. The first moult, however, replaces all these baby imperfections with the perfect adult plumage, so beautifully depicted in the plate accompanying this article.

There is no question but that we are on the eve of most interesting experiments, with this ever popular, always pleasing and delightfully charming little bird—one of the smallest of the Parrot family.

It is most satisfactory to be able to say, this newly acquired rarity is no freak, it is assured and established, its colour is absolutely fixed, and they breed true to colour and type. They are not lacking any way, but fine, robust specimens, whilst the type is even an improvement upon the original imported strain.

Whilst to some extent they have been inbred, no signs of such are in evidence, because each generation has more and more fixed the pigmentary tissues in the production of this strain, by freely crossing with the Green and Yellow varieties. In each instance where this cross has been made the young have been true to the colour of the respective varieties, by which I mean where the blue and green have mated the young truly represented either the Blue or Green type—no sports or freaks, no mismarked or unsightly young. Personally, I am hoping, sincerely hoping, for a few of the former, so that I may by careful study and by systematic mating, create something equally startling as the Blues.

Before me as I write I have a cage containing four specimens of the Green variety, two imported specimens, the other two having been bred from Blue and Green parents. As I sit and watch them they appear of similar hues, but closer comparison in the hand reveals quite clearly a deeper and richer yellow in favour of the cross-breds, somewhat closely resembling a clear gold. This is rather pronounced in all the yellow mafkings—whilst the green plumage is equally intense, it also favours a richer and purer emerald tint. The questions we may now ask ourselves are—why is the cross-bred specimen superior in its colouring? From what source does it emanate, considering the parents are sky blue and green? These are questions I cannot answer now, for I cannot bring myself to believe the colour of pigments eliminated from the original stock can have any latent power.

At present I believe the whole of the Blues living to-day are in three hands only—the lady already spoken of, Mons. Pauvvels, and the London Zoological Society, a pair having been presented to them by Monsieur Pauvvels. I do not think it will remains so. Keen as Mons. Pauvvels is to hold unique specimens, his interest in our mutual hobby and study of bird life, will prevent him reserving the study of this interesting variety to himself his main object in this instance will be to restrict, as far as possible, their becoming at all common for some years.

Their treatment is precisely the same as the common varieties, excepting at breeding time, they have a little special mixture, containing insect matter in a small degree. This has proved an advantage in giving stamina to both old and young. Their housing is just as required for the Green and Yellow varieties, good out-door aviary in spring and summer, enclosed cold aviary or birdroom for the winter.

The plate accompanying this article we have not seen at time of writing, but as Mr. Goodchild studied these birds at the L.C.B.A. Show, we can be sure they will be faithfully portrayed, especially after having heard from our worthy Editor that the drawing is life like and does full justice to these unique feathered gems.

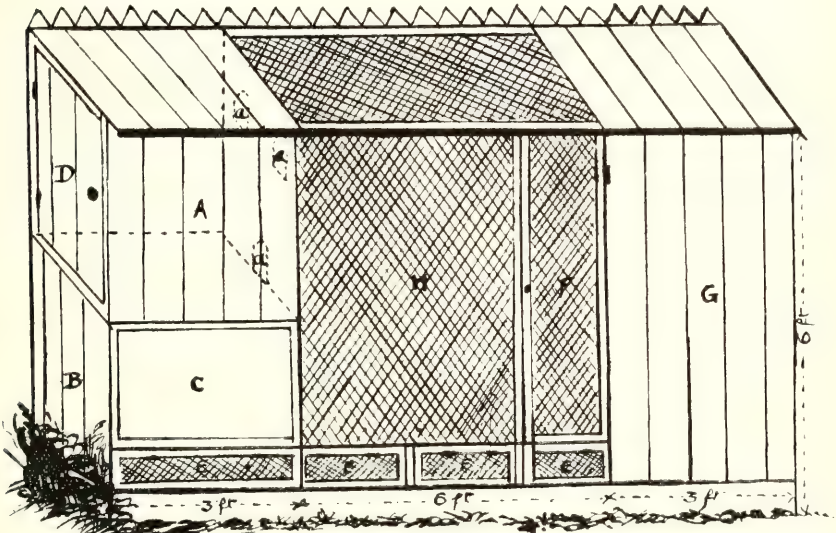
Freely Imported Species and their Treatment.

[The Cutthroat.]

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

The title needs a little explanation—a strong desire has been expressed for a chapter in each issue dealing with the common or freely imported birds, and as no copy is in for the first instalment, I am filling the gap—personally I hope this feature will take the form of many fully detailed accounts of breeding and keeping these charming species, for among them are to be found some of the most beautiful birds which reach our shores. As your Editor, I may be pardoned if I say that unless all take part in this series and the accounts sent in are comprehensive, its chief purpose and usefulness will be lost, however interesting it may prove.

How I Kept and Bred the Cutthroat *(Amadina fasciata)*. I am going back some 25 years, to a period when my accommodation was very limited, though I had previously kept a crowd of foreigners in a well lighted shed, at a former residence. At this period Budgerigars and certain common Weavers were fetching almost remarkable prices as compared with present day values. This particular aviary was a very modest affair, and was my first out-door or garden aviary; this is also a record of my first breeding success with Foreign Species. I think perhaps a diagram of the aviary may be useful, as it may encourage others, who can make but small beginnings.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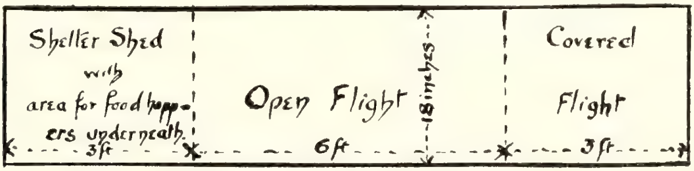
ELEVATION


Shelter Shed with area for food hoppers underneath.
Open Flight
18 inches
Covered Flight
3 ft
6 ft
3 ft

GROUND PLAN.

A. Shelter shed, with floor as per dotted line, and holes (a.a.a.) for ingress and egress to and from flight, these holes had small platforms for the birds to alight on, both inside and out.

D. Outer door to shelter shed, covering inner wire-netting door fitted with hinged flaps for cleaning purposes.

B. Area under shelter shed reserved for food hoppers, dry sand, grit, etc.

C. Square of plate glass in front of B.

E.E.E.E. Hinged flaps for feeding, and cleaning purposes, without going inside aviary.

F. Door to aviary, was only used twice a year, for renewing branches and general clean out.

G. Covered end, quite open to flight, under which nesting receptacles were arranged.

H. Open portion of flight, which was covered with panels of wire-netting of half-inch diamond mesh.

It only remains to say the framing was very light, the woodwork all half-inch matching, and that the aviary was a great success for three years, when it was replaced by a much larger one. It contained Java Sparrows, Cutthroats, Avadavats, Bronze and Tri-colour Mannikins, Redpolls, Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Bullfinches, and Bramblefinch; the Java Sparrows, Cutthroats, Bronze Mannikins, and Bullfinches, all bred and reared young, but my story for this month is about the Cutthroats only.

This pair of birds was procured in July 1885, and placed out of doors at once. There were a number of nesting receptacles in the enclosure from among which they choose a three compartment box, almost filling one of the outer compartments with hay, grass, withered chickweed, groundsel stems and feathers: three eggs were laid and all duly hatched out, incubation lasting fourteen days; when the young were about three or four days old the cock died, apparently in a fit, for he was in perfect plumage, and showed no outward evidence of any ailment whatever. I was very verdant as to breeding topics in those days, and my previous high excitement became very near akin to despair, but the hen continued to feed and at the age of twenty-one days three fine young birds left the nest, two hens and one cock, for the young males possess the ruby collaret in the nestling plumage. I cannot attempt to describe my excitement, but it was very real, and the memory of it is still very fresh; their mother shared my excitement, and would not let any of the other aviary inmates come near her precious offspring. It was the same while the young were in the nest, not a bird was permitted to approach the nest, if one looked in he left in a great hurry—on one occasion a male Zebra Finch did enter the nest while she was gathering provender for her chicks, but she saw him enter, and she flew straight in, did not pause to alight on the front perch, Mr. Zebra came out in a great hurry, while Mrs. Cutthroat put her head out of the entrance of "Cutthroat Castle" with her beak full of feathers!

The young, up to the time of leaving the nest were reared so far as I could observe, on dried ants' "eggs"—every hour a tablespoonful of these was scattered over the aviary floor, and till these were all gathered up and her precious chicks fed, Mrs. Cutthroat was busy indeed.

The old birds thrived on canary, white millet, spray millet and kibbled oats, with greenfood, cuttlebone, and an occasional insect. They never took soft food, and only partook of the dried ants' "eggs" when young were in the nest—the young after they left the nest were fed entirely on seed and greenfood. These three birds remained in my possession for four years. Cutthroats are really, though so common, handsome and interesting birds. I have always found these birds quiet and inoffensive, though well able to take care of themselves in any company.

While on Cutthroat topics I should like to digress and ask some of our members to try crossing this species with the Red-headed Finch *(A. erythrocephala)*, a very handsome hybrid is the result, the males of which possess both the ruby collaret and the red-head and in size are about intermediate between the two species. According to the late Dr. K. Russ, the hybrids are fertile, so that with a little perseverance a permanent variety should soon be the result, especially if several members made the attempt, and exchanged young, so as to secure unrelated pairs. I purpose myself attempting again to get the cross, and if successful, then to try the following season to breed from the hybrids. The chief difficulty is, that the Red-headed Finches are bad parents, both as to incubation duties and feeding their young, but either Java Sparrows or Cutthroats would hatch and rear if a transference of the respective clutches could be effected without too much disturbance of the respective pairs.

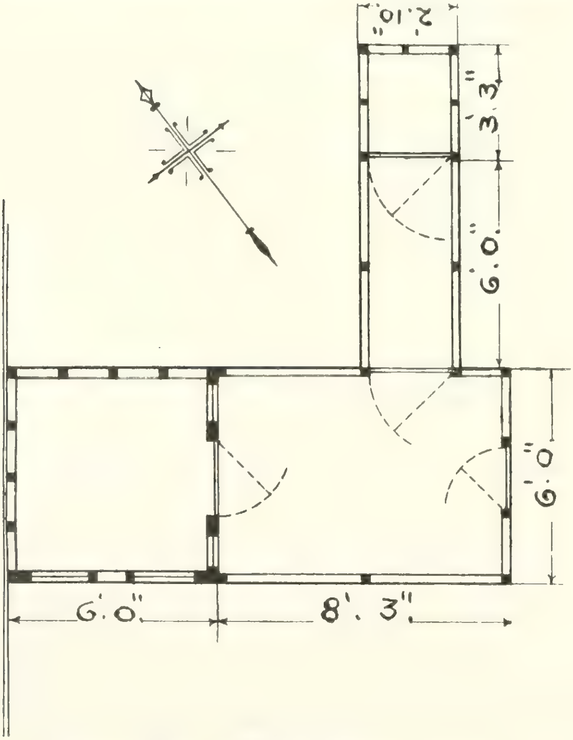
To be continued.

My Aviary and Inmates

By Miss L. Peacock.

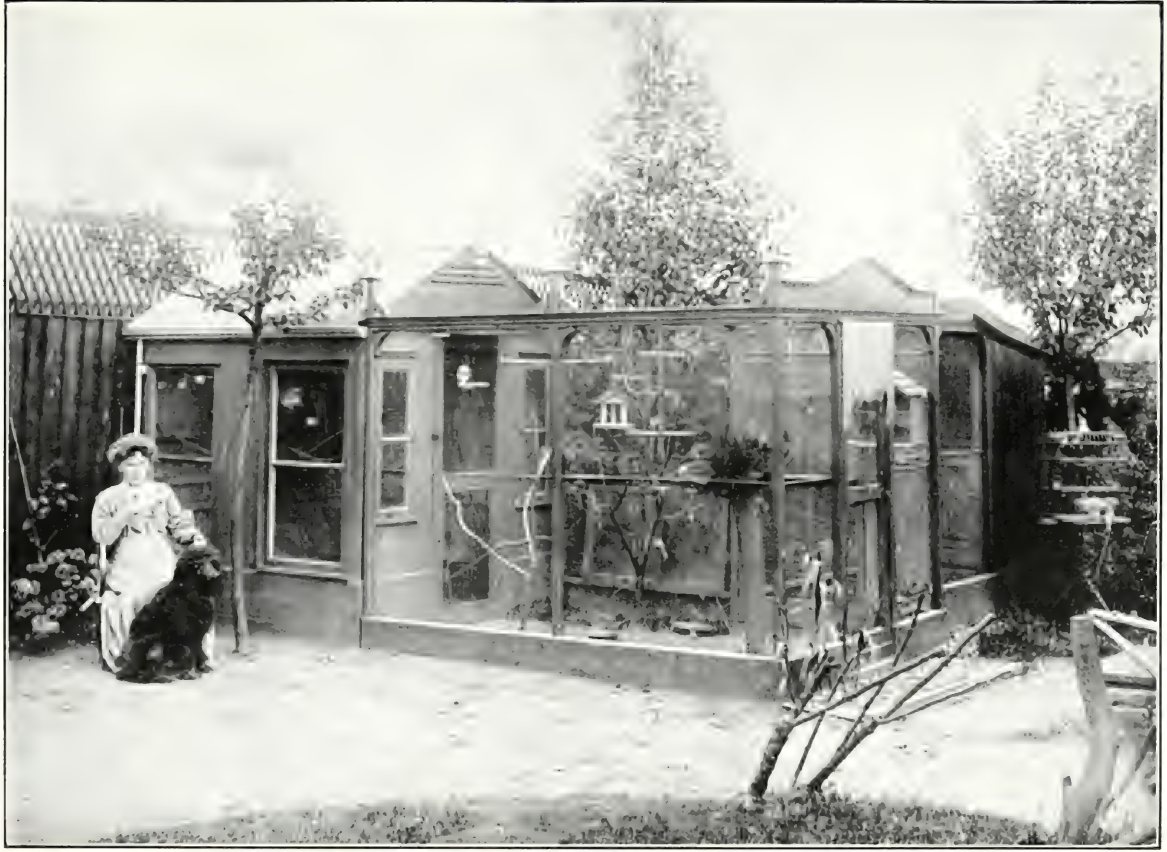
The accompanying photo and ground plan are so fully descriptive as not to call for further remark, save to say that on the whole the arrangements have answered well, and the birds have been contented and happy, but breeding results have been practically nil.

It is very probable that there will be but little in these few notes to interest experienced aviculturists, but they may be of interest and possibly helpful to beginners like myself.



Ground Plan of Miss Peacock's Aviary.

As I was able to procure them I have turned in the following at intervals during the year, either pairs or odd birds. Waxbills: Common, Gold-breasted and Scarlet Tiger (Amadavats) ; Green and Yellow Budgerigars, Chinese Painted Quails,



Miss Peacock's Avairy.

Firefinches, Cordon Bleus, Bronze-winged and Black-headed Mannikins, Nutmeg Finches, Bullfinches, Goldfinches, Redpolls, Canaries, and Madagascar Weavers.

I have sought to get a pair of Red-headed Gouldian Finches, as I greatly desire to possess a pair of these lovely birds, but so far without success.

I put in for the Waxbills a Cineraria plant covered with blight, and the next morning my two Avadavats were dead, one in each corner, with a lot of feathers about.

[I think the cause of death is obvious, the poor mites had been scared by a cat or some similar vermin, and had flown about till exhausted and then perished miserably—it is usually the new arrivals that these pests of our gardens scare to death.—ED]

The Chinese Painted Quails were very wild at first in spite of clipped wings, but they are now becoming quite tame and run about the flight in the daytime. The Budgerigars have done a lot of nesting with practically no result, there has also been some cross-mating with odd birds, but so far nothing reared.

As regards dietary, I supply millet and canary seed, also a mixture of rape, teazle and hemp. For green food they get seeding grass, shepherd's purse, chickweed, thistle-heads, etc. This diet appears to suit them, as apart from new arrivals, my losses have been small.

I had a fair number of losses with new arrivals, during the cold spells of this summer, but in spite of these and other discouragements my birds have given me infinite pleasure and interest, and I am now putting up a small enclosed aviary as winter quarters for them.

Everett's Parrot.

BY REV. G. H. RAYNOR.

I have become the fortunate possessor of what I believe to be a rare bird, *Tanygnathus everetti.* In his excellent book on Parrakeets, p. 90, Mr. Seth-Smith tells us that the genus *Tanygnathus Wagl* " is distinguished by the bill being very deep and powerful, with a very broad anterior surface to the lower mandible. It is distributed over the Philippines, Salu, and Sanghir Islands, Celebes, the Moluccas, the Tenimber Islands, and the North-west of New Guinea. Eleven species are known, of which only three appear to have been imported into this country. In captivity they should be fed on the usual seeds, nuts, and fruit." He then goes on to describe the three above-mentioned species, viz. *T. luzonensis*, *T. megalorhynchus*, and *T. muelleri* (of which *T. albirostris* is probably but an aberrant form). A woodcut of the head of *T. megalorhynchus* on p. 92 gives one a very good idea of the formidable nature of the beak of *Tanygnathus*.

My friend and fellow-member, Mr. Tinniswood Miller, F.Z.S., has kindly given me the following information about my bird. "There is a description and coloured plate of the species in the British Museum Catalogue Vol. xx, p. 432 plate x.

Tanygnathus everetti.

"Whole head grass-green, neck and under parts paler green, slightly yellowish; inter-scapular region dark green with the edges of the feathers blue; lower back and uropygium deep turquoise-blue; upper tail-coverts green, more or less edged with blue; all others, as well as the secondaries, edged with yellowish-green; tail above green with pale tip, underneath golden olive-yellow, bill red, feet grey, total length 13 inches. Habitat, Philippine Islands, Samar, Panay, and Mindanas."

The specimen I own came to me lately from my fellow-member, Mr. S. Beaty, of Alderley Edge, who writes about it as follows: "The Parrot seems very healthy. I had no trouble in moulting it, and he is now in good feather. I have had him since July, but I did not get him from a dealer. The bird is very quiet and extremely hardy. I feed on sunflower, hemp, canary, millet, a few nuts, dry biscuit, and apple. I have kept it in a parrot cage in my greenhouse bird-room, heated to about 50 to 55 degrees." Should the bird do well with me and be in good plumage next February, I hope to send it to the Crystal Palace Show, where I trust many B.N. readers interested in the Parrot family will avail themselves of the opportunity of seeing it.

Later: Mr. Tinniswood Miller informs me he has lately visited the Zoo, and finds "they have several species of

Tanygnathus, and among them is an *everetti*, which, according to the label, was purchased by the society in February, 1904. From this they appear to be good livers" My bird has settled down well in his new home, and takes things very quietly, being by no means excitable, and will eat almost anything, but is especially keen on spray millet, oats, sunflower, and various nuts. As his beak is horn-coloured, i.e. greyish-white, I presume he is an immature specimen.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 333. Vol I., New Series.

PICIDAE.

Woodpeckers are very common here, but I only know three different kinds (two large and one small) out of the ten species whose range should include the Gambia. The two larger birds I take to belong to the *genera Campothera* and *Mesopicus*, the smaller one to *Dendropicus*, but of the actual species I am very uncertain. Our largest Woodpecker (*Campothera*) seems to get nearly as much of its food on the ground as from the trees. Small parties are frequently to be seen searching about on the ground under trees or in the open on the clearings, especially in the old millet-fields, where the corn-stalks of the previous crop remain for months; among these they diligently hunt for insects, hopping about and splitting the dry stalks with their powerful beaks, if they are lying on the ground, or climbing up those that are still standing. Our small Woodpecker (? *Dendropicus*) is much more arboreal in its habits. I cannot remember ever having seen one of them on the ground. Both make a loud tapping noise with their beaks on the trunks of trees and in other respects resemble in their habits our own woodpeckers at home. The Mandingo name for all Woodpeckers is Yiro-kongkonnà (Tree-knocker).

As I know so little about the differences between these Woodpeckers, I must content myself by giving a description of the specimens of the two species which I have shot and a list of all the species whose range, as given in the Hand-list, includes the Gambia.

"McCarthy Island, November 21, 1905. Shot one of our largest Woodpeckers, which I take to be one of the *Campotherae*.

Description. A light olive-green speckled bird with a red head but no red rump. Above, head from base of bill over crown to nape, crimson, the feathers long, fluffy, and with grey bases. Streak from lower mandible to beneath the eye also crimson; cheeks and ear-coverts, pale olive with small spots of black, like the chin;

back of neck like the cheeks, but with larger black spots. Mantle - long loose feathers—olive speckled with dark brown and pale fawn, back and rump much the same, but the feathers barred rather than spotted. Upper tail-coverts the same but paler, the light bases being more distinct. Tail, sharp-pointed stiff feathers, central shafts yellow, webs above pale brown barred with darker, below reddish-yellow shaded and barred with brown. Wing-coverts and flights above olive spotted and barred with pale fawn, below grey-brown, shafts yellow. Under surface: chin, and throat pale olive spotted with small black spots, breast yellower and also spotted, centre of abdomen olive-yellow, without spots; sides and under wing-coverts duller, paler and spotted; under tail-coverts pale olive-yellow with a few black spots. Bill lead-colour, lower mandible the paler. Feet olive-grey; iris burnt sienna. Length, 9½ inches.

Next day I shot another, probably the female. The plumage the same. except that the forehead was not red, but from the base of bill to middle of crown (where the red began), the feathers were black with small pale olive-yellow spots; the oblique red cheek-stripe also was only represented by a faint greyish line without any red, and the back was perhaps a brighter shade of olive than in the bird first shot."

"April 6, 1906. Another Woodpecker shot. This, I think must be *Mesopicus goertan*. Above, forehead grey, crown feathers red mingled with grey, nape grey. Mantle olive-green, loose long feathers with grey bases; rump and upper tail-coverts red, loose long pointed feathers with olive and grey bases. Wing-coverts olive; remiges brownish with olive outer edges, especially marked after the first four; cream-coloured spots on both edges, larger on the inner; below grey-brown, with broad white margins; under wing-coverts barred with grey-brown and white. Below, chin, face, and throat grey, breast grey tinged with pale olive, as are also the abdomen and vent. Tail feathers stiff and pointed, brown above, below brown, slightly tinged with olive. Bill and feet dark lead coloured; iris, sepia. Length, 7¾ inches.

List of Woodpeckers likely to occur in Gambia (from the the British Museum Hand-list).

Campothera punctata.

Range. Senegambia to Nigeria. (*H.L.*)

C. ***maculosa.***

Range. Senegambia to Gold Coast; Equatorial Africa. (*H.L.*)

C. nivosa.

Range. Senegambia to Congo. Fernando Po. (*H.L.*)

Denropicus minutus.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

D. hemprichi.

Range. North-east Africa? Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

D. lafresnayi.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Angola; Equatorial Africa. (*H.L.*)

These three members of the genus *Dendropicus* are small mottled olive Woodpeckers, red naped in the males, but not in the females. Length 4½ to 5 inches. Our little Woodpecker I expect is one of them.

Iyngipicus obsoletus.

Range. North-east and West Africa. (*H.L.*)

The markings of this species are more black and white and it is altogether more like the European Smaller Spotted Woodpecker. I once shot a bird which I thought at the time was this species, but I kept no particulars of it.

Mesopicus goertan.

Range. Senegal. (*H.L.*)

M. poiocephalus

Range. Senegambia to Angola. (*H.L.*)

Iynx torquilla. WRYNECK.

Range. Europe, Asia, North-east Africa; West Africa (Senegal). (*H.L.*)

The Wryneck no doubt comes as far South as the Gambia in winter, but I have never seen it here.

To be continued.

Nesting Notes for 1910.

By Maurice Amsler, M.B.

In the September issue of *Bird Notes* will be found a few lines by our kindly but mistaken Editor, on breeding successes in my aviaries. I hasten to take up my pen to undeceive my fellow members, and to inform them that the successes referred to should have been called failures. As a matter of fact, Mr. Page must have misread my letter, and has given me credit for broods reared, whereas I only wrote of *nests*—a distinction with a great difference, as we all know to our cost.

My only noteworthy success was the rearing of one Red-whiskered Bulbul, of which full notes have appeared in the *Avicultural Magazine* for December. This youngster was hatched in May, from the first clutch of four eggs, and was fed entirely by the hen bird on gentles and mealworms, as long as he was in the nest. When he flew, which he did on the 13th day ; the cock bird helped the hen in the arduous task, and soon weaned the young bird to soft food and fruit. When 24 days old the young Bulbul could feed, but preferred to rely on his parents—pure laziness, I feel sure.

The hen laid four clutches, from which she hatched eleven chicks, but for some reason on each occasion the young were all thrown out at periods varying from one to ten days.

I feel sure that they could be reared successfully by placing the eggs under a Thrush or Blackbird, but the value of the Red-whiskered Bulbul would hardly repay one for the trouble of the subsequent hand-rearing.

I see that Mrs. Mahon has reared the species, and it would be interesting to hear that lady's exact method of feeding.* The other species mentioned by Mr. Page are Siberian Bullfinches, Pelzeln's Saffrons, Amadavats, Golden-breasted Waxbills, Chinese Quails, and Parrot Finches. With the first four I got as far as young hatched, but after that—disappointments! The Siberians showed signs of building early in June, and as they could not decide on a building-site, I gave them a canary travelling-cage, containing a Green Cardinal's nest—this they quickly lined—and the hen laid her first egg on the 18th, and the fourth on the 22nd. Incubation began on the 21st, but finding a few days later that two eggs had been pecked, I put the remaining two under a canary, which sat for ten days, and came off just as the eggs were due to hatch. They were both fertile. On July 19th I found the hen again sitting on four eggs, this time she was so steady that she would allow me to stroke her without getting off the nest. The cock spent most of his time on a twig close by, and never allowed any of the other birds, of which there was a large number in the same aviary, to approach the nest.

On August 6th two chicks hatched out, and were fed from the first by both parents. On the 8th I found one of the youngsters dead in the outer flight, five or six yards away from its nest, and I have always suspected a certain Saffron Finch, which was both a clown and a knave, and who was sent away shortly afterwards. The remaining young bird was fed on shepherd's purse, dock, chickweed, and mallow, the favourite seed-foods being sunflower and hemp. I was much disappointed on the 18th to find this chick had also died. He was fully quilled, and seemed to me an enormous bird for his age. Had he lived, could I have exhibited him as a British hardbill?

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* Mrs. Mahon has promised an account for a later issue.—Ed.

My Pelzeln's Saffrons, which I bought from Mr. Willford in 1909 were identical in plumage, and I was for a long time uncertain as to their sex until I actually saw them pair in June. They had built and laid four *white* eggs in April, but these were not incubated.

On June 25th I found three eggs of a bluish-white ground colour, with brown speckles at the broader end. The nest box chosen was, oddly enough, one I had made for some Waxbills, with an entrance hole of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter, with the express purpose of keeping the Saffrons out, as I rather suspected them of a *penchant* for eggs.

As I was passing the nest on July 11th, I was greeted by a strong but unattractive scent, and on looking into the nest, found three dead chicks about two days old. Their crops were full, but their condition was such as to discourage any further post-mortem examination.

The male bird moulted in August, and in September had assumed his full plumage. When I left for my holiday in August pairs of Avadavats and Golden-breasted Waxbills were sitting, the nests in both cases being built in some ivy. While away, I heard with pleasure from my friend, Mr. Temple, that the Waxbills had hatched out, but later news informed me that two young birds had flown at the age of three weeks, had spent their first night out, and had been drowned by heavy rain. The Avadavats' first clutch came to nothing, but from three eggs laid in mid-September, two young were hatched, which were fed for about ten days, when I found them dead on the ground below the nest. They had, I think, been killed by the early frosts.

A pair of Chinese Quail in the same aviary laid the rather unusual number of eight eggs, towards the end of July, and brought off five chicks on August 9th, only three of these reached maturity, and all turned out to be males.

On September 17th, I found a nest of seven eggs, which had evidently been laid some time, but which the hen had not incubated, doubtless because she was disturbed by the young birds of the first nest. It would be wise, I think, to remove the young of gallinaceous birds as soon as they are able to fend for themselves, I shall certainly do so next year if I breed any Quails sufficiently early, and the season gives one reasonable hopes of a second clutch.

Of other Quails, a pair of Californians built a nest under a box wherein 24 eggs were laid in a month. Half of these I sent to Mr. D. Seth Smith. They all proved infertile, the remaining half I put under a bantam, which was not sufficiently broody, and they also were therefore unproductive. My Rain Quails spent the summer dashing about and trying to break their necks against the wire ends of their runs. While on the subject of Quails it is interesting to note, that whereas growing grass is said to be necessary for their successful nesting, my Painted Quails chose on each occasion the only spot in their run which was not grass-covered, and the Californians built their nest on a little patch of gravel, although most of the aviary, was planted with grass a foot or more high.

A pair of Parrot Finches began nesting operations on March 1st, but were disturbed on at least two occasions by an unmated cock. On May 1st they were placed in an outdoor aviary, where they brought off three broods. The first, however, left the nest too early, and did not survive long; the second and third broods, each time consisting of three youngsters were quite vigorous and remained outdoors until the middle of November. A pair of Painted Finches built a nest in a canary cage and laid three eggs in early June. Both birds sat steadily but some feathered ruffian took a liking to their nesting materials, and caused them to forsake.

A second nest was built in the ivy, and on July 2nd, they were again sitting on three eggs. On July 11th the male bird was found dead, and the female thereupon promptly forsook the eggs, which all contained fully formed chicks.

I obtained another cock shortly afterwards, but the lady objected to him, possibly because he had a "hipped" wing. (By the way, I should be much interested if Mr. Gray, M.R.C.V.S. would tell us the anatomical significance of this common injury).

My Gouldian Finches have been a failure, at least three of my hens have died in the nest from egg-binding and allied troubles. I am sure that the importation of 1910 was much less vigorous than Payne and Wallace's of three years ago. The last two failures I have to chronicle are the nesting of Fire-finches, who built and laid twice, but did not sit; and Crimson Finches who hatched four young but did not feed. Zebra Finches, as usual, were very busy trumpeting, building, and driving away all the rest of the community, but, perhaps on account of the wet season, they seldom brought off more than one or two young at a nest. On one occasion there was a clutch of twelve eggs in, what I am certain, was not a communal nest, and, as far as I remember, only two young were reared, doubtless the hen was quite unable to cover such a large number of eggs.

I have only two more facts to record, both interesting, but disappointing to me. In the early spring I bought what I thought was a pair of Scarlet Tanagers—an adult hen and a young cock. These I turned out of doors in May, and in June I had sudden visions of a medal, a certificate, and world-wide notoriety, for the hen had built quite a nice nest in a Privet bush. She sat for a day or so, and then deserted. I then found that the whole performance was make-believe, and that she had not laid a single egg.

It was only some weeks later that I discovered her to be a hen Black Tanager, and that my supposed young male was really a hen Scarlet Tanager. The other event I referred to was what I took to be an attempt at building on the part of a hen Golden-fronted Fruitsucker, but it may only have been play, for these birds are, to my mind, very "unbirdlike." The bird in question spent hours daily for the best part of a week winding a piece of tow round the branch of a bush; no sooner was this important work finished than it was carefully unwound and begun again. I offered her other and more substantial materials, but she literally turned up her bill at them. I should much like to know if others who have kept Chloropsis have had similar experience, and whether the habit is confined to any particular sex. Another curious feature of these birds is the pulling off of leaves and playing "catch" with them. I have heard from a well-known aviculturist that he also has noticed this trick with his Fruit-suckers. I suppose their abhorence of settling on the ground is notorious, but I never knew of it until I kept the species out of doors, and suppose it must be on account of the bright contrast they would make if they ran about, starling-like, on the brown and parched soil of their native India.

Before I bring this lengthy paper to a close, a story with a moral may not be out of place.

At the beginning of the year, when I was trying to get a pair of *C. aurifrons* I was offered one by a dealer at a good deal less than the usual price, "because it was out of feather." The bird arrived and tallied perfectly with the dealer's description, it was, in fact, balder than any vulture.

However, as it was fairly wild and lively, and also because I did not like the idea of sending it back to its smelly shop, I kept the bird; he improved greatly with soap and warm water, and quickly grew a wig, and proved himself to be a *C. jerdonii,* of which, I believe, there is only one other in the country at present.

If I have been guilty of writing too fully on matters of small importance, I must disclaim all blame, which must fall on the shoulders of our esteemed and energetic Editor. I have written to him asking him to clip my article to any extent, and to keep it for some rainy day, when he is short of subject-matter for *Bird-notes.*

Birmingham Show—Foreign Section.

The Birmingham Society held their annual show on Wednesday and Thursday, November 30 and December 1; the dates coinciding with the Cattle Show, as may be expected, there was a large attendance of "out of town" fanciers, and of the public generally, in fact during the evening the show room was uncomfortably crowded, and a larger hall would have been a distinct advantage.

This is the first year that this Society has gone past the the two class classification, and, I regret to say, with lamentable results. Really, if exhibitors will not support a society which endeavours to cater for them, they have only themselves to blame if classification is again cut down.

Six classes were given, and F.B.C. patronage obtained. Only three F.B.C. members exhibited.

No doubt the chief cause of the downfall was that it came too soon after the L.C.B.A., but *all* the birds were not at London, and the management I understand did their best to obtain entries. As is customary, it was easy to see that the Foreigners and British softbills were the chief attraction to non-exhibitors, and the section was invariably the centre of an enquiring crowd, whose remarks on the birds were very edifying

Parrakeets, &c.—Cancelled, not a single entry.

Short-tailed Parrots, &c.—One entry only, a very fine Grey Parrot, in lovely plumage, and an accomplished talker, rather slim in build.

Avadavats, and Common Seedeaters, 6.—1 Howe, large and good pair of Diamond Finches, in lovely trim, but might be better spotted and richer in colour; lucky to be on top, 2 Howe, very lovely pair of Orange-breasted Waxbills, large, clear zebra markings, good back colour, clear eye marks, and a broad expansive rich breast; an easy first, but possibly down on account of the slight lameness of the cock bird. 3 Hadley, smart pair of Orange-cheek Waxbills, perfect in feather, and condition, large birds, beautiful display, might have been 2nd. 4 Baker, very fine large pair of Grey Javas, in lovely condition. V.H.C. Hadley, good pair of Black-head Nuns, sleek and tight, might be stouter. H.C. Shaddock, White Java, large fine bird, might be cleaner, and better shown. A small, but very interesting class.

A.O.V. Seedeaters, 8.—1 Howe, very fine Melba Finch, an easy win in beautiful condition. nice colour. 2 Howe, very good Crimson Finch, also in lovely condition, clearly spotted, good face, bright tone of colour, but might be less grey on the back. 3 Hadley, fine large Painted Finch, good face, nice tone of colour, profusely but somewhat irregularly spotted, minus one or two head feathers. 4 Rose, Red Headed Gouldian, distinctly lucky, his only merit being a wonderfully long tail, fully four inches in length. Pinched in head, and short of a quantity of neck and back feathers. V.H.C. Hadley, a very fine pair of Cuban Finches, the hen having a number of flank feathers stuck together, evidently the cause of placing; otherwise in good condition, hard as nails, and of very fine colour. H.C. Baker, two very good hen Cordons, in nice condition, but badly shown. C., Meredith, Paradise Whydah, moderate condition only, nice colour, shown in far too large a cage.

Tanagers, &c., 2.—1 Hadley, large and brilliant Superb Tanager, in perfect feather, and condition, exquisite bloom, constantly surrounded by an admiring crowd. 2 Hadley, large and good Magpie Tanager, needs a moult, slightly damaged tail.

A.O.V. 4.—1 Williams, very fine Green Billed Toucan, a constant attraction, in good colour, and the pink of condition. 2 Ford, a very pretty pair of Painted Quails, perfect legs and feet, beautifully staged, well worth their place. 3 Williams, a good Lesser Hill Mynah, in perfect order. 4 Baker, we did not notice.

BRITISH SECTION.

In the British Insectivorous were:

LARGE. 1 Lloyd, a very fine Chough, might be stouter in build, but otherwise perfect, good coloured legs and beak, faultless feather. 2 Williams, a grand Magpie, very attractive. 3 Shaddock, Hoopoe, nice condition, but only rarity and difficulty in keeping to make it attractive, indistinct in markings, poor in colour. 4 Baseley, a very fine Redwing. Also exhibited another good Chough, but very soft and with a crossed beak; a poor Waxwing, no doubt a hen, and a very nice Starling.

SMALL, 4.—1 Shaddock, a large, beautiful, and richly coloured Bearded Tit. 2 Shaddock, very fair Blackcap, nice cap, fair condition only. 3 Shaddock, a Nightingale, small, poor feather and colour, shown in a Norwich style cage. 4 Shaddock, as poor a White-throat.

T.R.H.

This report was crowded out of last issue. ED.

Book Notices and Reviews.

Canaries, Hybrids, and British Birds in Cage and Aviary. Cassell and Co., in monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part X. Another exceptionally good part. The frontispiece a coloured plate figuring three varieties of Norwich Canaries, viz.: Clear Yellow (colour fed), Ticked Buff (colour fed) and Even-marked (natural colour); the half-tones and text figures are excellent. We may specially mention good figures of Stonechat, Whinchat and Wheatear among many others The text is practical and comprehensive—the chapter on "Norwich Canaries" is completed and others on "Breeding the Norwich Canary" and "Breeding Evenly-marked Canaries" included.

Editorial.

OUR NEW VOLUME: This, our first issue, signifies the commencement of another avicultural year. What will it be for our Magazine and F.B.C. generally? *Just what its members make it!* Shall we get 100 new members? Yes, if *every member* shares in the effort to obtain them. Will our Magazine maintain its present standard? Yes, if every member keeps that object in view. To this end, so that our records may be of general value—dates should be kept (exact or as near as can be obtained); description of nestling plumage; age they leave the nest; age they were able to fend for themselves; age when, and method by which they came into adult plumage. In addition full details should be given as to dietary and treatment previous to nesting operations; description of nest and whether both sexes assisted in its construction or only one; also if possible colour of eggs should be given, this can often be ascertained by getting a reflection of the interior of nest in a hand mirror while the birds are away feeding, or by watching for the ejected shells after incubation is complete. Comprehensive records of the doings of our birds are much needed and asked for, and *all should feel that they are under an obligation to share the duty of supplying same.* Records both of COMMON and RARE SPECIES are required. The new feature "Common Species and How to Keep Them" will be maintained throughout the volume, with, I hope, each instalment *from a different pen.*

If we each do our part, then the volume just commenced will be in advance of its predecessors—Watchwords are common —Shall the watchword of F.B.C. for 1911 be FORWARD?

No association or individual can stand still—*it is either progressive or retrogressive.*

If the above is too plainly stated—our excuse must be, we desire the progress and improvement of our Club.

Attention of members is also drawn to "Notices to Members" in inset (notice re club dinner).

THE GIZA ZOO: Our esteemed member Capt. S. S. Flower, the Director of these gardens, after a holiday spent in Europe, returned to Egypt in the late summer and then entered upon his annual collecting expedition to the Sudan. From this expedition he has recently returned, bringing with him 170 live animals, all in excellent health, also a large amount of material for Museum purposes. Thus the Menagerie collection is increased by many notable additions including many rare Mammals, Reptiles and Birds—it is with the latter we are most concerned. The additions from all sources are as follows :

* Signifies new to the collection.

Paradise Whydahs (*V. paradisea*).
Ethiopian Weaver Bird (*Q. æthiopica*).
Bishop Finches or Dhurra Birds (*P. franciscana*).
Red-backed Sparrows (*Passer rufidorsalis*).
*Red-legged Spoonbill (*Platalea alba*).
*Red-billed Hornbills (*Lophocerus erythorhynchus*).

Cutthroat Finches (*A. fasciata*).
*Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus arsinoe*).
Black-headed Heron (*Ardea melanocephala*).
Cape Dove (*Aena capensis*).
Rosey-grey Doves (*T. roseogriseus*).
Secretary Birds (*Serpentarius gambiensis*).
Grey Eagle Owls (*Bubo cinerascens*).
Many Banded Chanting Hawk (*Melierax polyzonus*).
Lesser Moorhen (*Gallinula angulata*).
Red-faced Chanting Hawk (*M. gabar*).

Also specimens of the following helped to swell the large and interesting series of birds at these gardens: Brown-necked Raven, Spotted Barn Owl, *Bateleur Eagles, Marabou and Bishop Storks, Sacred Ibis, Rueppell's Spur-winged and Egyptian Geese, White-faced Whistling Teal, Nubian Bustards, Grey and Demoiselle Cranes, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Vultures. *Compiled from "The Egyptian Morning News."* We should highly esteem it, if Captain Flower would send us an account of the species new to the collection.

A NEW INDIGENOUS SPECIES: From the *Daily Mail* of December 28th, we compile the following interesting note: Mr. Collingwood Ingram has found a new indigenous species of Tit, closely allied to *Parus ater* the Coal-Tit, in the pine woods of County Sligo, Ireland. The distinctive feature of the new species is that the white areas of *P. ater* are of a clear sulphurous-yellow hue. This species is not merely an abnormality confined to one or a few individuals, for Mr. Ingram found all the Coal-Tits of the district so coloured—a specimen has been examined by the N.H. Dept. of the British Museum and has been given specific distinction as the Irish-Tit (*Parus hibernicus*). The particulars were supplied to the *Daily Mail* by Mr. Louis Wain on the authority of Sir William Ingram.

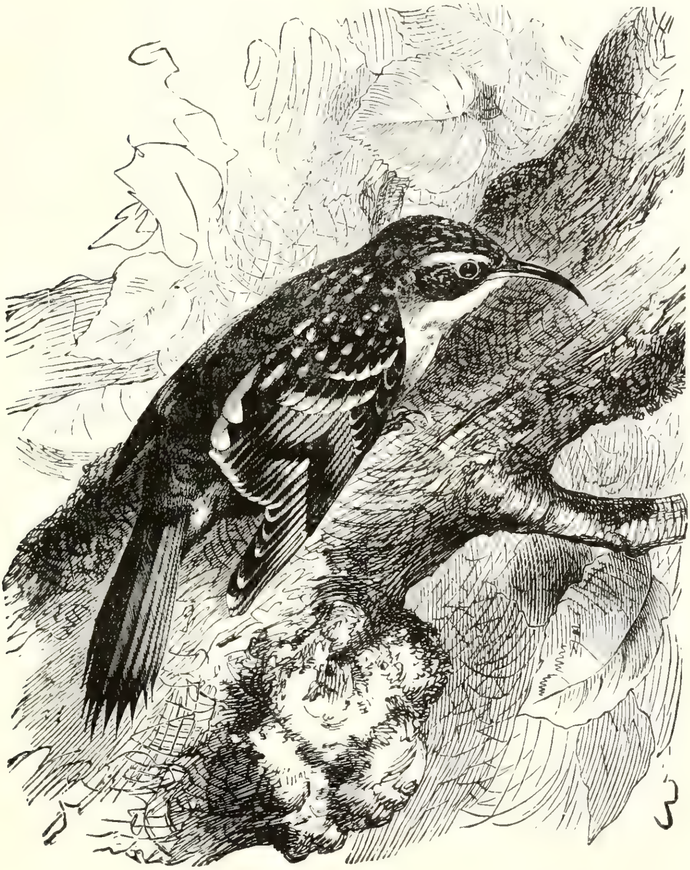
BRITISH BIRDS.

The Tree-creeper.

By P. F. M. GALLOWAY.

First, I had better give a brief description and range of the species.

The adult male is brown on the upper surface, but nearly the whole of the plumage is washed with golden-buff; the feathers of the head and back are streaked with ashy-grey centres; rump and upper tail-coverts bright tawny, the long fluffy feathers a white streak near the tips; lores dusky; streak over the eye, sides of face and under surface silky-white; coverts tipped with white, except the greater, which are tipped with golden-buff, preceded by a black band; quills dusky variegated with buffish-white and black; tail feathers brown with reddish shaft streaks; bill dark brown; feet brown; iris hazel. Length over all 5½ inches of which the tail measures nearly 2 and the bill ¾.



Tree-(Common) Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

Reproduced from Cassell's Natural History.
By kind courtesy of the publishers.

It is resident in practically every part of the British Isles and also throughout Europe, in fact is found over the whole Palæarctic region. In spite of its specific name it is not by any means a familiar bird to the field naturalist, but it is always an object of interest when the opportunity to observe it foraging for small insects, in the pursuit of which it actively climbs and runs about the trunks or branches of trees.

[The British-Creeper has been given specific distinction by Ridgway as *C. britannica*, but it is more generally known by its Linnean name. The Continental species is certainly greyer and less tawny than our indigenous species.—Ed.]

To rear by hand a tiny Tree Creeper within an hour or so after hatching, sounds rather a tall order, which some may consider an impossible task to attempt; but it can be done and without any difficulty.

In order to successfully rear by hand such an atom of bird life as a Tree Creeper just out of the shell, three important things are required.

1. Natural warmth.
2. Natural live insect food, such as the parents would carry to them.
3. Patience and plenty of it.

How I came to attempt the hand-rearing of this species when it was so young, was this way:

In the summer of 1909, I knew of a few Tree Creepers nests, which is not surprising, as I had previously placed in the woods properly constructed homes for them to breed and rear their young in, and nearly all were tenanted by Creepers: from some young had just flown: other nests containing eggs which were being incubated. Again, other of the nests had young just showing pen feathers. On going to one of the nests which I knew contained six eggs, and which were due to hatch that day, I heard, and saw the old birds and knew at once something was amiss. They were flying backwards and forwards from tree to tree close to the nest and uttering a peculiar note, which may be taken as a call of distress and is a certain indication of something wrong. On looking into the nest, or what was left of it, I found, as I expected that vermin (mice) had been at work, on the ground lay one young bird, half eaten; in the nest were two more young, and one egg with a young one in it, the egg shell had been torn open, and the bird was of course dead, having been bitten. Of the two others in the nest one had a wing bitten off, the other had escaped injury, was still alive and able to move its legs, but was almost cold, evidently the mice had been doing their destructive work only a short time before I got there; certainly within a quarter of an hour this bird would have been dead also. However, I took the bird and thought I would try the experiment of rearing at this age. I kept it in my warm hands until I reached home, by which time it was becoming quite lively. I had two Tree Creepers at that time, which I was rearing and which were pen feathered. I dropped the newly hatched one into this nest, with the other two, and by so doing, I was able to supply it with just the natural warmth necessary and within a short time the naked youngster was holding its head up and mouth open for food.

I supplied it with small, green catterpillars from beds of nettles, also with small "Daddy-long-legs," small moths and a very small beetle found upon the trunks of trees. I do not know the name of the latter, but in colour it looks as if it had been painted with a bright yellowish-green powder, like gold paint, only green, it is about the size of a Ladybird.

The insects mentioned being exactly the same kind of food as supplied by the old birds in a state of nature, I was therefore rearing on the same lines as the wild birds, and the youngsters did well from the commencement and grew rapidly. I gave it nothing but this live food, until it was twelve days old, then its *menu* was increased by fresh live ant eggs, and small mealworms (bruised), soon after giving the latter, I reduced by degrees the catterpillars, &c., and when it was three weeks old I began to feed the bird with small quantities of my insectivorous food, "Life," in addition to live food. As soon as he was full grown and could look after himself, I placed him (for it was a cock bird) in one of my aviaries, with the two other Creepers reared at the same time. I was obliged to clip off the points of the two centre tail feathers in order to be able to recognize him from the other two.

I intended to have a photograph taken of the bird just hatched and another when full grown. I aranged with a man come up and do this for me, but he did not come until nearly a week after and as the bird had grown so much, it was too late.

They were exceedingly tame and interesting birds. The Tree Creeper thrives well in an aviary and can stand a considerable amount of cold weather providing it is given a fair amount of live food in addition to the insectivorous mixture, a small quantity of York cream cheese, chopped fine, and added to the soft food, is a most useful item of diet and the birds do well upon it.

I consider the Tree Creeper is a species that would not be at all difficult to get to breed in an aviary, fitted up in a manner suitable to the habits of these birds, but it must be an aviary for them alone, they would not tolerate the presence of other birds when nesting.

After the breeding season, Long-tailed, Blue, Cole, and Marsh Tits, and also Gold-crested Wrens, could be placed in the same aviary with the Creepers, as these birds associate together during the winter months, in a wild state.

When placing birds in the aviary they should always be watched for the first time to see that they readily find the vessels containing their food, and if fresh birds are put into an aviary, containing others who know the food vessels by heart, then more careful watching than ever is required, not so much because of seeing that the new comers find the pots containing the soft food, but to see that there is live food there when they do find them, for the established occupants will have devoured all the live-food, before the fresh birds will have found their way to the food vessels, and that is why some birds go off so soon after being turned into an aviary.

Correspondence.

PARROTS AND FEATHER PULLING.

Sir,—We have had a Green, I think West Indian, Parrot for about thirty years. About ten years ago it began to pull out its feathers, and has continued to do so intermittently ever since. It has very frequently been, except for its head, like a plucked fowl without a feather on its body, and perhaps a few or none remaining in the tail.

When this condition has been reached, the bird has been satisfied for a while and let the plumage grow again up to a certain extent. Soon, however, the same would happen again. About eight or nine years ago we had one of the keepers of the Zoo to see it and followed his directions with some benefit.

Soon, however, either from want of care in carrying out the directions or for some other reason, the Parrot got as bad as ever.

About fifteen months ago we began to spray the bird freely with a weak solution of Fir Tree Oil twice a week. This had the desired effect, and in two or three months the plumage was nearly as fine as it had ever been, and the bird seemed to have lost that irritation which evidently was the cause of the feather pulling, the application apparently destroying the parasites which produced the irritation.

For about the last six months no application has been used and the bird is showing signs of relapsing into its old habits.

We have thought lately of returning to the fir tree oil spray.

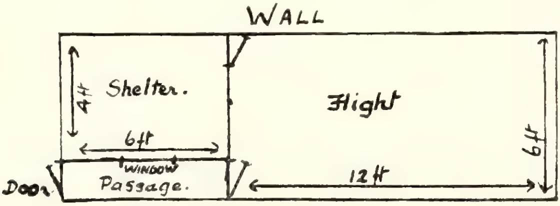
(Dr.) CHARLES BLAIR.

AVIARY NOTES.

Sir,—If you think the following of interest perhaps you will use it.

I decided to put up a new aviary this summer, chiefly for the benefit of three Pekin Robins—a cock and two hens—which I felt sure would do much better outside than in a cage.

A site was chosen just below the garden at the top of a wood, which slopes steeply to the river. The aviary was erected against the garden wall, after this had been carefully cemented as a protection against rats. It consisted of a wire flight, made with half-inch mesh wire netting stretched on 6ft. x 6ft. iron poultry hurdles, and a shelter made of matchboarding, roofed with "Ruberoid."



Ground Plan.

In June the following birds were put out—three Pekins, pairs of Orange-checked Waxbills and Avadavats and a hen Grey Singing Finch. In July, while I was away from home, the rats made their way through the cement of the wall and carried off one of the Pekins. Fortunately this was soon discovered, and the other birds caught and caged. Since then the wall has been covered with wire-netting, and the birds put out again. Being so near the trees the aviary is well provided with insects in summer. In September the Waxbills seemed to be feeling the cold so much that they were brought into the house. It was not until after this that I discovered that both pairs had built nests in the aviary—the Avadavates in a nest basket in the shelter, the Orange-cheeks in a whin branch outside. After discovering the nests, the Orange-cheeks were caged separately, and provided with a basket nest and some dry grass. They were soon busy with these, both birds building. The hen laid five eggs, and then for two days my hopes rose high, for they sat fairly steadily, or at any rate the hen did so—the cock was rather fussy, and could not bear anyone near the cage when he was in charge. At night the hen sat, the cock keeping guard just outside. After those two days all my hopes were quenched, for it seemed to have been too much for the hen, she became puffy and listless, and would take no more notice of the nest.

Since the Waxbills were taken out of the aviary I have put in a family of four young Saffron Finches, and later, their mother, as she would try to nest outside in the cold weather. The noise the young Saffrons made when the old bird was put in with them was exactly like the scolding of House Sparrows when they are mobbing another bird, and they pecked her most unmercifully. However, the old bird soon put her children in their place. Two of the young birds appear to be rather darker than the others—is this likely to be any indication of their sex? They are about five months old.

I should be much interested to know if other members have found the Spicebird to be a good foster-mother? In the summer of 1909 I had in my aviary a solitary hen Spicebird, which had made attempts to nest on several occasions. I had several Zebra Finches in the same aviary. One of the Zebra Finches nested in a coco-nut husk, but when the young ones were only about a week old the hen Zebra died. Her place was taken by the Spicebird, which reared the young ones most successfully, the cock Zebra Finch never taking the smallest notice of them.

(Miss) E. MARJORIE HINCKS.

MY PET BIRDS AND HOW I KEEP THEM.

Sir.—A few notes of my avian pets and how I keep them may interest readers of "Bird Notes." My pets are 26 in number, both British and Foreign species, as follows:—

4 Bullfinches.
1 Goldfinch.
1 pair Blue Tits.

1 Olive Tanager.
1 Paradise Whydah.
1 pair Zebra Finches.
1 pair B.H. Gouldian Finches.
1 pair Orange-breasted Waxbills.
1 pair Red-billed Weavers.

Blue Tits: These I find most interesting and they live in perfect harmony with the rest.

Zebra Finches: These are very quaint and interesting, but though they have lived and loved, and also laid a number of eggs in a "Record box" which I placed in their cage, no young have been reared.

I have a large aviary-cage which can be carried into the garden in fine weather; last spring I procured and placed therein two pairs of B.H. Gouldian Finches—one pair were soon busy constructing a nest and I shook hands with myself and said we shall see. My hopes were dashed to pieces by the death of the hen through egg trouble and in the moult I lost another cock and hen. My grief was great at the loss of these the most beautiful of all birds.

Orange-breasted Waxbills: These run the Gouldians very close for beauty, but it is their minute size, loveable and confiding demeanour, which cause these feathered gems to appeal to me perhaps more than any of my pets.

Red-billed Weavers: These have interested me greatly by their weaving skill and the numerous nests they have built have made snug sleeping quarters for the smaller birds.

Paradise Whydah: This bird has done really well with me and has a fine tail—I must procure a mate and try and get some youngsters during the coming season.

Olive Tanager: This bird is very good tempered, in fact is really the policeman of my aviary—he lets the others feed and bathe first and at the least sign of fighting, interposes his superior strength and soon puts matters right.

The Bill of Fare: My birds get the usual seeds—canary, white millet, spray millet, rape, teazle, etc.; green grass seed, chickweed and groundsel; also fruit of different kinds. The green grass seed is greedily eaten and is very good for the birds. My pets are now all in perfect condition and are a source of endless pleasure and interest to me.

This year I hope to do better as I am arranging for a natural garden flight.

(Miss) LYDIA CLARE.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

It would greatly help him to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source they obtained the birds from and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

TWO LIZARD CANARIES. (Miss Hincks, Dulverton). Although the two birds were already undergoing post mortem changes, I could make out that their spleens were very much swollen (about six times their normal size), and crammed full of yellowish nodular looking bodies, indicative of the so-called true bird-fever, which is very deadly. You should isolate your remaining birds, singly, in cages, burn all dead birds, thoroughly scrape, wash, scrub, disinfect and finally paint the inside of the aviary, remove the top soil, and allow no birds in for three months. If a bird should die in a single cage, either burn the cage or immerse it in a 10 per cent. solution of carbolic acid. Scald the drinking utensils, immerse the seed-boxes if wooden in carbolic solution. Take care that none of the recovered birds are not the source of further infection. Have you bought any fresh birds of late? If so, from whence?

CORDON BLEU AND AVADAVAT.—(Miss Peacock, Kent). Pneumonia was the cause of death. Newly purchased birds have a happy knack of departing this world on or soon after arrival at their new quarters.

COCK RED-HEADED GOULDIAN FINCH. (Lady Kathleen Pilkington). Cause of death, inflamation of the bowels and lungs.

WOODLARK.—(The Hon. M. C. Hawke, Tadcaster). The cause of death was an injury to the brain. The safest remedy for red mite or lice on birds is an infusion of quassia or stewsacre. In the former case use quassia as bathing water and in the latter immerse the bird in the stewesacre infusion and dry in front of the fire.

MANY COLOURED PARRAKEET ♀.—(W. Edmunds, Wareham). Cause of death, inflamation of bowels, probably induced by a chill.

BLACK-HEADED GOULDIAN FINCH ♀.—(Miss Augusta Bruce). The cause of death was apoplexy of the liver.

Answered by post:—Mr. Nicholson, Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames, Lady Kathleen Pilkington, Chevet Park, Wakefield.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

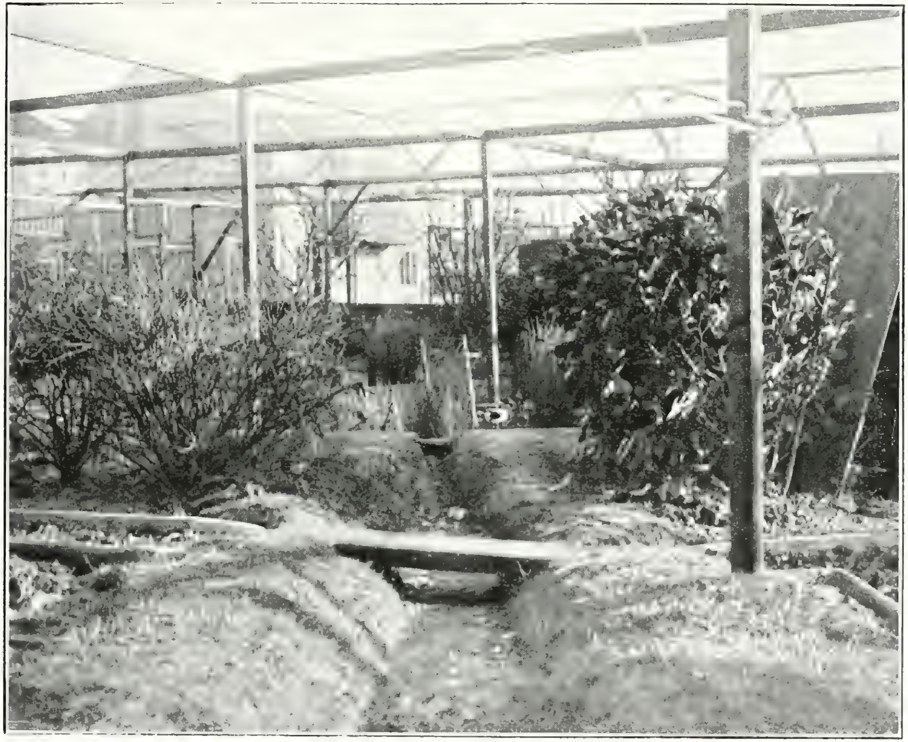
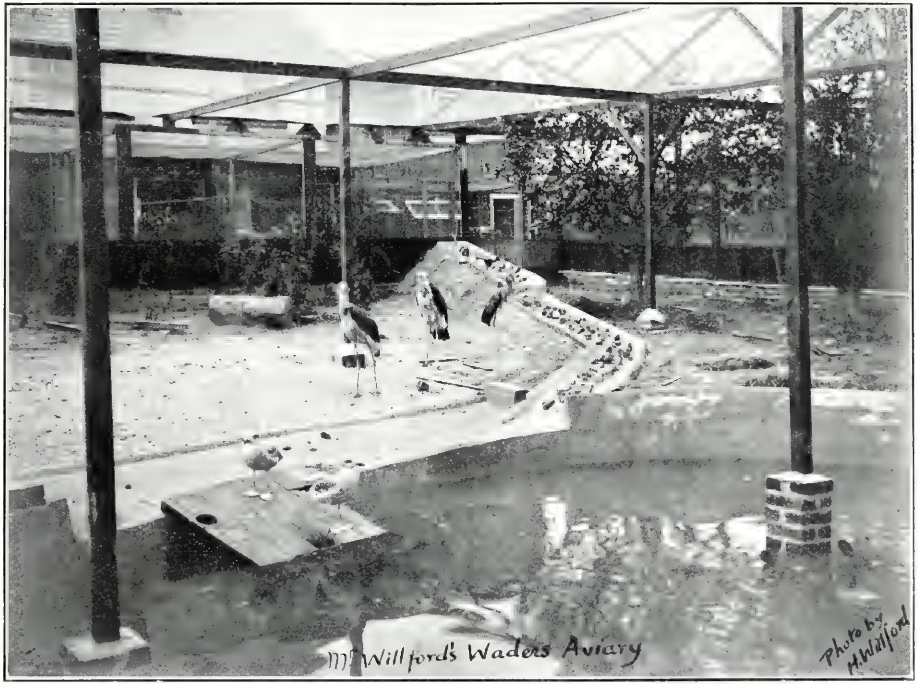


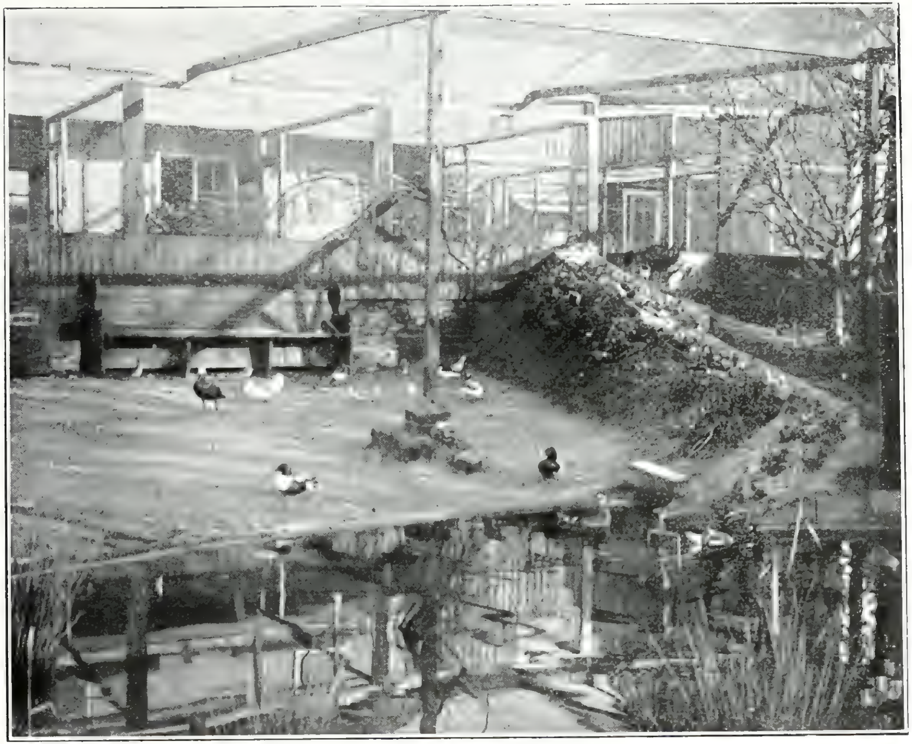
Photo by *H. Willford*

Part of Mr. Willford's Waders Aviary.



Mr Willford's Waders Aviary

Photo by H. Willford



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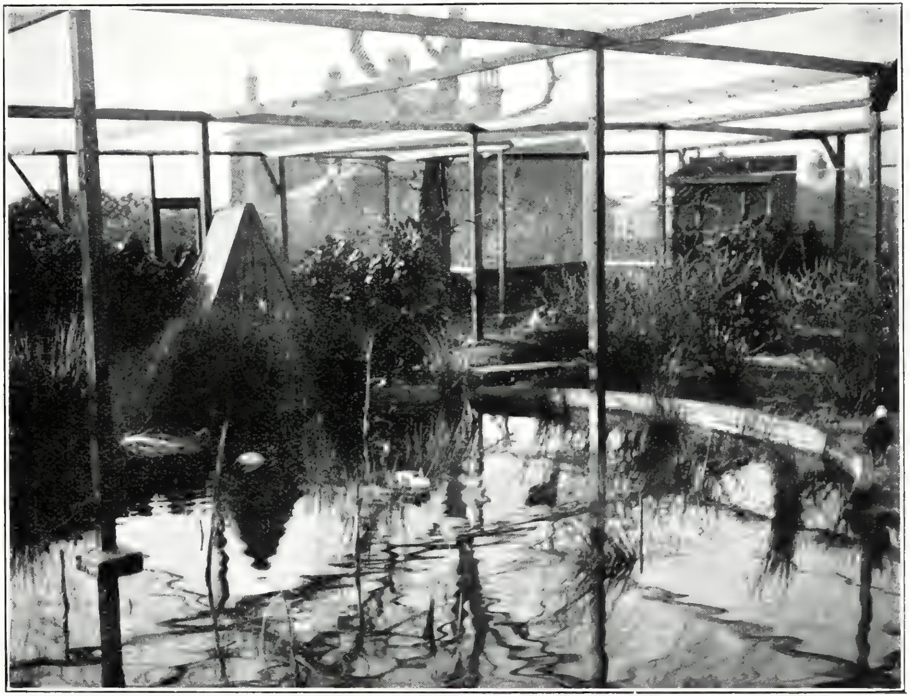

Photo by *H. Willford*

Part of Mr. Willford's Waders Aviary.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Waders Aviary.

By H. WILLFORD.

Some enquiries for notes on keeping Waders in captivity having been made to our Editor, he has asked me for an article dealing with these delightful birds, and of course I am only too pleased to comply with his request.

Although my study of these birds in captivity is not of long duration, I have for a number of years been interested in them in a wild state, coming across many of them whilst wild fowling along the coast.

Perhaps a few notes on the construction of my latest Waders Aviary may be of interest :—It is built at the back of some other aviaries and measures seventy-one feet long by seventy-one feet wide by nine feet high, a brick foundation standing about one foot high runs all round, and on this rest sections twelve feet long, constructed of three by two inch quartering and bolted together ; these sections have match-boarding two feet high, which form some little protection from the weather as well as stray cats or dogs.

At one side the roof is raised and pitched to allow four or five large apple trees to grow without lopping their branches.

The whole of this structure is covered with one inch mesh wire netting, but to any one thinking of building such an aviary, I would suggest that they use half inch mesh, for most Waders appear harmless to small finches, and where there are plenty of trees and bushes one might keep some of the freely imported Finches or Buntings, or for that matter even Tanagers.

In the centre of the Aviary is a pond measuring twenty feet by nineteen. This consists of a hole dug out three feet deep and concreted all round the sides and bottom to hold water—when the concrete was set quite hard, sandy earth was filled in to form a gradual slope from the sides to the centre, this earth also allows of bullrushes and water-reeds being planted—the cost of this pond, not including the removal of the earth, which of course took my men some little time, was about six pounds.

The next thing I had to work out was how to keep the water fairly fresh; this was managed by a sort of rock work stream (which can be seen in the photograph) supplied by a tap and town water, the bank being first built of earth excavated from the pond and well rammed and then on top of this was placed some old half inch mesh wire netting on which was formed a sort of cement gutter with smallish pieces of rock placed here and there: the bank sides were then turfed and planted with various wild plants, primroses, iris, etc.

Now apart from this water supply I have devised that all the rain water falling on the buildings at the back, also waste water used in the coach yard, and overflows from the Wilderness Aviary water supply are conducted by means of field pipes to the top left hand corner of the aviary, this being the highest level, and then after percolating through a stream of tightly packed rushes, enters the pond.

So much for the inflow of water, the next thing to be arranged was the outflow. Here again I provided two means of egress, the first consisting of a drain on the bottom of the pond which will seldom be required, but, if necessary will allow the pond being drained quite dry by means of a plug, the second outlet is a continuation of the stream which when the pond is full takes away any surplus water. This stream is banked with grass and as a good deal of water runs down, it leaves a muddy bottom for the waders to explore.

There is a sloping beach to one side of the pond, on which several loads of shore sand and fine shingle is spread. The plants in the aviary consist entirely of Laurels, Firs, grass and rushes.

The wood-work is painted with "Penetras" a product sold by Randolph Meech, of Poole, Dorset, who also makes some very cheap and useful bird houses and shelters. I believe Messrs. Majors, of Hull, manufacture a wood preservative called "Solignium," which can be obtained in green, or brown. This I mention in passing, as it is so much cheaper than paint, lasts just as long, and is much easier to apply. In this aviary are two houses or shelters for any birds that care to use them, but waders seem to have a dislike for any kind of shelter except perhaps those formed by hunks of earth on tree roots.

The estimate given for building this aviary was, for brick foundations, all woodwoork (not including shelters), wire and all labour connected with the building, apart from levelling ground, etc., £40; the pond as before stated £6—and to this must be added another £25 for gardeners laying turf, sand for beach, digging out pond, making paths, bridges, steps, etc., bringing the total cost to about £70

Having thus gone into the details of construction roughly, I may now pass on to the more exciting business of stocking the aviary, although I must admit that filling our pond by means of the water-fall rock stream after a good deal of time and labour had been spent on its formation, was quite exciting enough and reminded one of some of the creations seen at the Hippodrome.

The first birds I turned into my new Eden happened to be two solemn Marabou Storks, which I christened Adam and Eve (but I believe they are two males). These were closely followed by an unnamed Ibis, some Black-headed Gulls, and a South American Water Rail; of course these were only temporary residents, and as soon as the first batch of Waders came to hand, the above were removed to less roomy quarters, much to their disgust. Now there are many points in favour of keeping Waders if one has the accommodation, the very reasonable price and ease in procuring them being two of the first; they are easily fed, and appear hardy, and for general interest regarding their habits and little ways are to my mind unsurpassed by any other kind of bird.

All the foods required to keep Waders in health are fine scalded biscuit meal and chopped raw meat (liver for preference), of course worms, and insects of any kind are acceptable, but in a large enclosure numbers of these must be picked up by the birds themselves; soaked bread crusts, and boiled rice are also useful foods to give.

The one drawback to Waders is the frequency with which they seem to injure their legs. I think this is done by their being suddenly startled, and unlike most birds when they fly up and strike the wire, instead of injuring their heads, it is their slender legs that suffer and get strained. Regarding the kinds of birds one may keep, there are quite a number to choose from, some of which I give photographs of.*

Amongst others, the following do well together: Redshanks; Green, Grey, Golden, and Ringed Plovers; Knots, Dunlins, Oyster-catchers, Curlews; Black-headed, and Little Gulls; Godwits, Avocets, Sandpipers, and most of the Ducks, such as Ruddy, and Common Sheldrakes, Shovellers, Wigeon, Teal, Pintail, Pochards, Carolina, Mandarin, etc.

The great drawback to keeping the Black-headed Gulls and Ducks with small Waders is that they will, without special precaution is taken, eat up all the food and leave the Waders to practically starve, so it would be better to keep only the small Waders together.

(To be Continued).

*Will be reproduced with next instalment.—Ed.

Freely Imported Species and their Treatment.

THE YELLOW SPARROW (*Passer luteus*).

By R. Suggitt.

Many of the Foreign Sparrows, of which there are upwards of twenty species, are very handsome and interesting birds, and although they are too active and restless for cage life, they are charming as aviary birds. Not more than one pair should be put into the same enclosure, and a watch should be kept on individuals associated with birds weaker than themselves, as they are sometimes liable to run amok. From my experience of the two or three species I have kept I should say that most of them would readily nest in a fair sized aviary.

The Yellow Sparrow is not on the market as regularly as could be desired, but it is often obtainable at a reasonable price, and may be called fairly common. It is much smaller than our old friend the House Sparrow, and far more brightly coloured, but it is an unmistakable Sparrow. The male has the head, neck, and the whole of the underparts pale primrose yellow, which however deepens with each successive moult, and in very old specimens is almost orange; back rich chocolate-brown; lower back yellow; flights and tail dark brown; two white bars on wing. The female is fawn-brown above and greyish-white below. A fine coloured plate appeared in *Bird Notes*, Vol. 3. Some indiduals of this species are credited with a murderous disposition, but those I have possessed have been quite harmless, even going out of their way to avoid trouble. Their greatest fault is that they waste a tremendous lot of seed, and soft food, throwing it right and left with their beaks. An ordinary seed hopper hanging on the aviary wall will be emptied of its contents in 10 minutes, apparently for pure mischief: a deep sided seed tray should be used.

Food: Canary, white, and Indian millet, with a few insects and a little soft food.

The song is a sparrow-like chirp and is very monotonous, it is however only heard during the breeding season (April to September). After the moult the birds are very shy and are only to be seen occasionally during the winter.

The nest of this species is externally a rough untidy structure of the usual sparrow-type. The foundation is made of coarse sticks, the nest itself of hay, warmly lined with feathers, and protected outside with a large quantity of sticks, pointing in every direction. Any site that will support a nest will suit them. In my aviary nests have been built in bushes, and coco-nut husks, but Hartz cages with all fittings removed, were most favoured, and the nests built in these had usually a substantial platform of sticks in front of the entrance. The male chooses the site, and with the exception of a little assistance given by the female with the lining, builds the nest, spending his spare time chirping and flapping his wings at the entrance. The eggs usually four in number (one nest contained five), are smaller and rounder than those of the House Sparrow, but in colour they are very similar, and they vary to about the same degree.

Probably the female alone incubates, but they are such nervous sitters that I only once caught her actually leaving the nest, in fact it comes as a surprise to learn that young have been hatched, for the eggs are apparently neglected and must often be cold.

The young leave the nest about a fortnight after they are hatched. Their plumage resembles that of the female, but is slightly paler.

While in the nest the young are fed almost entirely on live food, mealworms, gentles, spiders, flies, etc., when the supply becomes exhausted they readily feed on soft food.

I should say the Yellow Sparrow would rear young in almost any enclosure, unless it is that I have been exceptionally fortunate with my individuals. With everything in their favour, they should rear three or even four nests in the season. Live food in the shape of mealworms or gentles should be supplied as soon as the eggs are hatched, though I do not think these are necessary to success if the old birds will feed on a good soft food mixture.

My first specimens were purchased as a pair of young birds in the late summer, but as they both built nests and laid eggs the following spring, I concluded both were hens. I could not get hold of a male just then, so I turned a Tree Sparrow into the aviary with them. He eventually paired with both hens, and a fine crop of hybrids would have resulted had it not been for the interference of a pair of Swainson's Sparrows (a far more powerful bird) who murdered at least two promising broods.

However one hybrid was reared, which proved to be a hen. She was very plainly clad and resembled her mother, with the Tree Sparrow markings shewing faintly about her head.

I got a cock Yellow Sparrow before that season was over and released the Tree, who would not leave the vicinity of the aviary for weeks, spending most of his time trying to find a weak spot in the wire netting. The hens inside however barely gave him a second thought, accepting the attentions of the Yellow, and four pure bred youngsters were reared before the parents commenced to moult. One of the hens died during the winter. The other pair successfully reared 9 youngsters the following season. The hen died in the spring of 1908. She had reared two young ones and was again incubating four eggs.

An incident in connection with the death of this hen may be of interest. Some time after she had disappeared I noticed a dome of coarse sticks on the ground at the roots of the hedge which runs through the aviary. Thinking it was the top of a mouse nest, I turned it over and there lay the body of the hen Yellow Sparrow.

I remembered afterwards that I had seen the cock carrying sticks about, and chirping in a mournful way, and I have not the slightest doubt that it was he who had built the tomb over her.

L.C.B.A. International Show.—British Section.

By Allen Silver

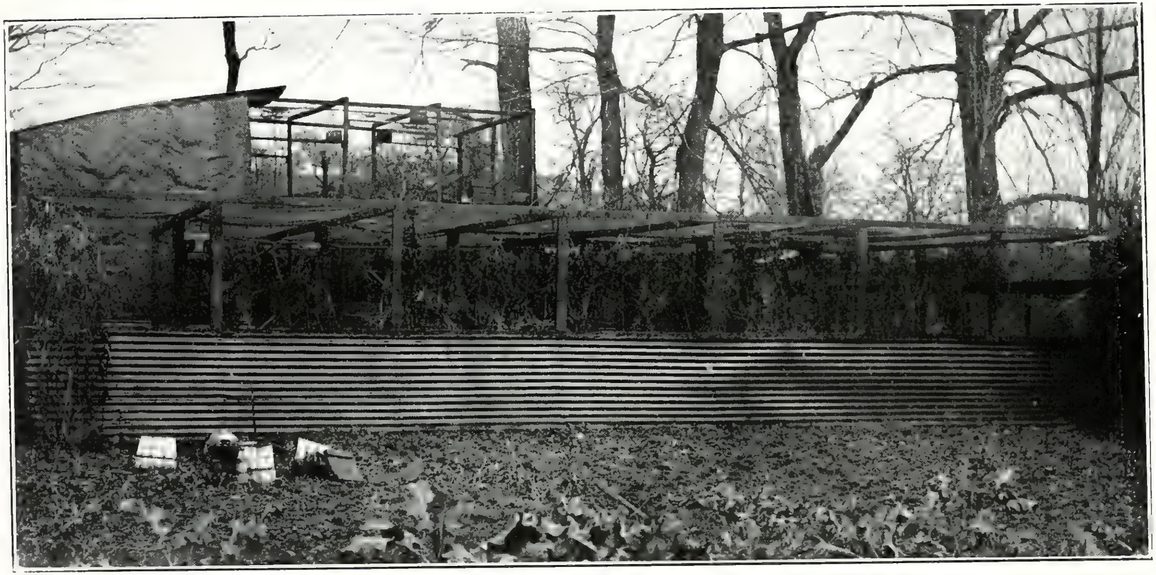
The classes devoted to native birds and their hybrids on the occasion of the 22nd Annual Show contained a goodly number of interesting and attractive birds. Nearly one hundred hybrids competed, and in the open sections devoted to British Finch-like Birds, we counted eleven Greenfinches, five Hawfinches, nineteen Goldfinches, thirteen Chaffinches, ten Bramblefinches, fourteen Linnets, sixteen Bullfinches, and seven female ditto. The Siskin, Redpoll, and Twite Class contained twenty-two birds, the Bunting Class eleven and the class for hen Seed-eating British Birds fourteen entries. Among the Buntings we noticed some exceptional examples of *E. citrinella, E. milaria, E. cirlus, Plectrophenax nivalis,* and a fine male *Calcarius lapponicus.* A genuine British taken female of the latter species was exhibited by Mr. Prior, of Brentford, in the class for hens. Fourteen birds competed in the Pied Albino and Rare-feathered Class, the winner being a pure albino Sparrow shown by Mr. Schlüter of Norbury; M. Pauvvels of Belgium won second with a most attractive Cinnamon Greenfinch; third went to Mr. Landlow's White Thrush; fourth to Mrs. Troove's Black Bullfinch. A Migratory Thrush *(T. migratorius)* was shown in this class as a British bird, and was of course ruled out. Other birds of interest were Mrs. Cooper's White Robin, a Cinnamon Redpoll, a Cinnamon Linnet, a Pied Sparrow, Blackbird, Robin, and a Cinnamon Lark. Ten birds were shown in the Continental Class —a section devoted to birds not recognised by the N. Brit. Bird Club, the winner being an excellent specimen of the Kingfisher shown by Mr. H. G. Page, of London. Mr. J. Frostick obtained second with a Two-barred Crossbill, a genuine British specimen caught in the north of England, and moreover, although twice cage moulted, shown in pink plumage; third and h.c., went to Mr. Otto Puck's Hypolais Warbler, and Sprosser respectively and, fourth to Mr. J. Dewhurst's Rose-coloured Starling. Mrs. G. E. Weston obtained v.h.c. for a beautiful non-moulted example of the Pine Grosbeak (the same lady winning premier honours in the Goldfinch Class with one of the finest birds ever seen on the show-bench). Mr. Maxwell exhibited a nice Great Reed Warbler in this class. Hen insectivorous birds numbered six, three being Bearded Reedlings, two Black Redstarts, and the remaining one, the leader, a good hen Blackbird. We should have welcomed more support to the open insectivorous sections, but what these lacked in numbers they made up in quality and interest. Mr. Maxwell's champion Chough won as usual in its section, followed closely by Mr. Dewhurst's Magpie. In the Blackbird, Thrush, etc., Class, Mr. Prior won first with a really good Blackbird, Mr. R. J. Howe, of Wellingboro running him close with a perfect Song Thrush, a Starling, and two other Song Thrushes, also competed. The Lark Class contained eleven birds, first going to a remarkably fine Skylark, shown by Mr. McVay, of North Shields; Mr. Lott, of London, winning second, third, fourth, and h.c., with Tree pipits, and Shorelarks. Eleven birds also were shown in the class for Nightingales and Blackcaps, Mr. Jackson, of Bawtry, getting premier honours with a large richly coloured Nightingale, second was won by Miss L.M. St. A. Wait's Blackcap, and third by the Hon. Mrs. Bourke's Nightingale, another charming bird; in addition to these, four Blackcap Warblers were benched. The small Insectivorous Class was the attraction of the section, ten birds being exhibited, Mr. John Frostick won first with a remarkably fine adult male Dartford Warbler, a really charming bird in perfect plumage, and quite tame; second Mr. Mays' Gold-crested Wren. The Hon. Mrs. Bourke obtained third with a beautiful little Dartford Warbler, which ran the winner very close, but was a bird of the year and not so large; fourth was taken by Mr. Frostick, with a good male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, v.h.c. going to Mr. Blackett's Goldcrest, a good bird. A Greater Whitethroat, a Wren, a Grey Wagtail, a Wheatear and a Goldcrest also competed. A Lesser Whitethroat was exhibited in the members' sections by Mr. J. Dewhurst, of Kensington. Mr. J. F. Dewar, of Scotland, and Mr. Allen Silver, of London, judged seed-eaters and insectivorous birds respectively.

My First Season. (1910)

By Wm. Shore Baily.

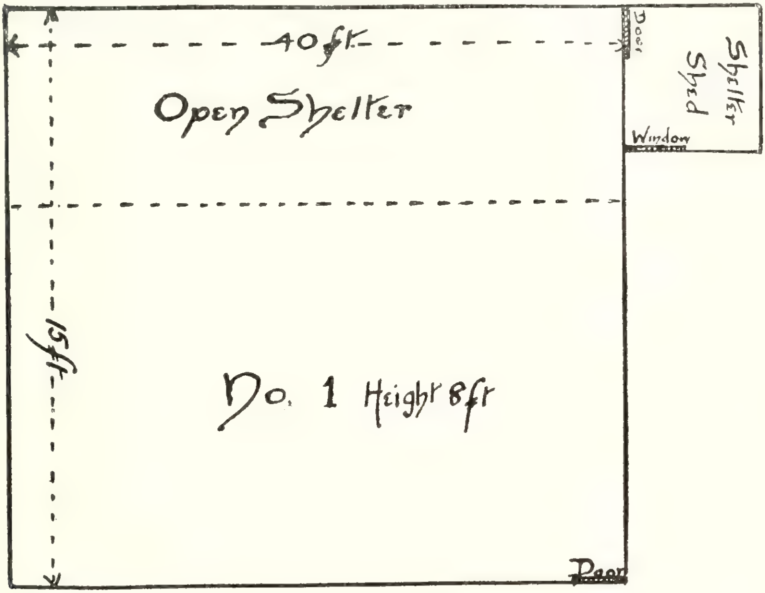
I am sending this account of my first year's breeding operations in respose to the Editor's request for copy. It will be seen that the results have been very small, but as i know a little more about the birds now, I shall hope for better results this coming season.

No. 1. Aviary (40ft. x 15ft. x 8ft.) contains Black-cheeked Lovebirds *(Agapornis nigrigenis)*, Budgerigars *(Melop-*



Mr W. Shore-Baily's Aviaries. No. 5 with No. 4 in background.

sittacus undulatus), Bronze-necked Doves, *(Zenaida auriculata),* and Mexican Crested Quail. The ground plan figured herewith will indicate accommodation provided. The Black-cheeked Lovebirds have nested three times, but two clutches were infertile and only two young have been fully reared; they are now sitting again on fertile eggs. These birds build a very neat nest of grass and reeds in an artificial log; their clutch has numbered four on each occasion.

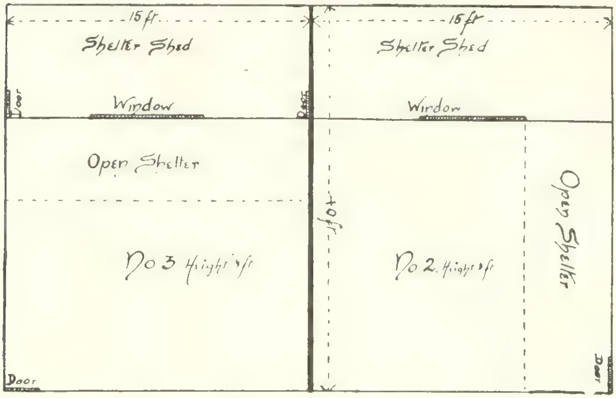


The Bronze-necked Doves nested three times, hatching out six young squabs, only three of which have reached maturity.

The Mexican Crested Quail built a neat nest in some reeds, but did not use it. Instead they dropped their eggs about the aviary and the hen has unfortunatly recently died of pneumonia.

No 2. Aviary (40ft. x 15ft. x 8ft.) contains Quaker Parrakeets (*Myopsittacus monachus*), Roseate Cockatoo (*Cacatus roseicapilla),* Ring-necked Parrakeets *(Palæornis torquata),* Blue Bonnet Parrakeets *(Psephotus hæmatorhous),* Cockateels *(Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ),* and Californian Quails *(Lophortyx californicus).*

The ground plan and photos reproduced herewith will fully indicate the accommodation given to these interesting birds.



The Quaker Parrakeets built an immense nest of sticks and were most interesting to observe, but no eggs were laid.

The Cockateels nested twice, but both attempts were abortive.

The Californian Quails laid 32 eggs, but were prevented from sitting by the interference of the Blue Bonnet Parrakeets, who persistently covered the eggs with a mass of sticks.

None of the other species attempted to nest.

No. 3. Aviary (40ft. x 15ft. x 8ft.) contains Partridge Bronze-wing Doves *(Geophaps scripta)*, Gouldian Finches *(Poephila mirabilis)*, Masked Finches *(P. personata)*, Spice Finches (*Munia punctulata*), Zebra Finches (*Tæniopygia castanotis)*, Silverbills *(Aidemosyne cantans)*, Orange-checked Waxbills (*Sporæginthus melpodus*), Cordon Bleu (*Estrilda phœnicotis)*, and St. Helena Waxbills *(E. astrilda)*.

The ground plan figured above indicates that the birds have had ample space and also plenty of cover. The Partridge Bronze-winged Doves nested very readily, but after they had been incubating four days, I found four eggs and consequently both were hens.

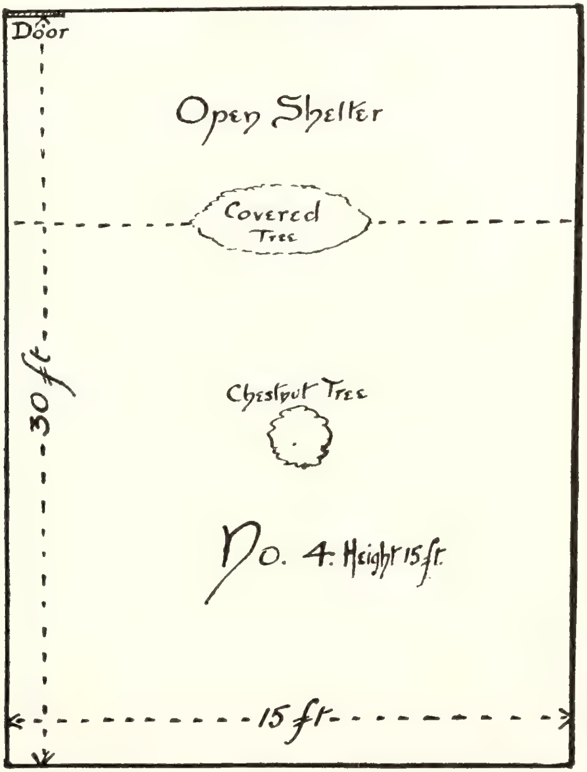
The Gouldian Finches nested and fully reared three youngsters.

The Zebra Finches filched the Gouldians' nest after the young had flown, re-lined it, laid and fully hatched out and reared to maturity two young.

None of the other species attempted to nest.

No. 4. Aviary (30ft. x 15ft. x 15ft.) contains Crested Cardinals *(Paroaria cucullata)*, Californian Quails *(Lophortyx californicus)*, Madagascar Lovebirds *(Agapornis cana)*, Aurita Doves *(Zenaida aurita)*, Peaceful Doves *(Geopelia tranquilla)*, Zebra Doves *(G. striata)*, Diamond Doves *(G. cuneata)*, Cinnamon Sparrows *(Passer cinnamomeus)*, Java Sparrows *(Munia oryzivora)* Madagascar, Orange, Yellow- and Red-billed Weavers, White-headed Mannikins *(Munia maja)*, Tri-colour Mannikins *(M. malacca)*, Grey Singing-finches *(Serinus leucopygius)*, Green Singing-finches *(S. icterus)* and Canaries.

The following ground plan again indicates the ample accomodation, natural cover etc., given to this varied and interesting series.



The Californian Quails did better in this aviary, not having any large birds to interfere with them; they nested twice, on the first occasion hatching oue fourteen chicks, of which they only fully reared three. Their second attempt was abortive owing to the nest being flooded during heavy rains.

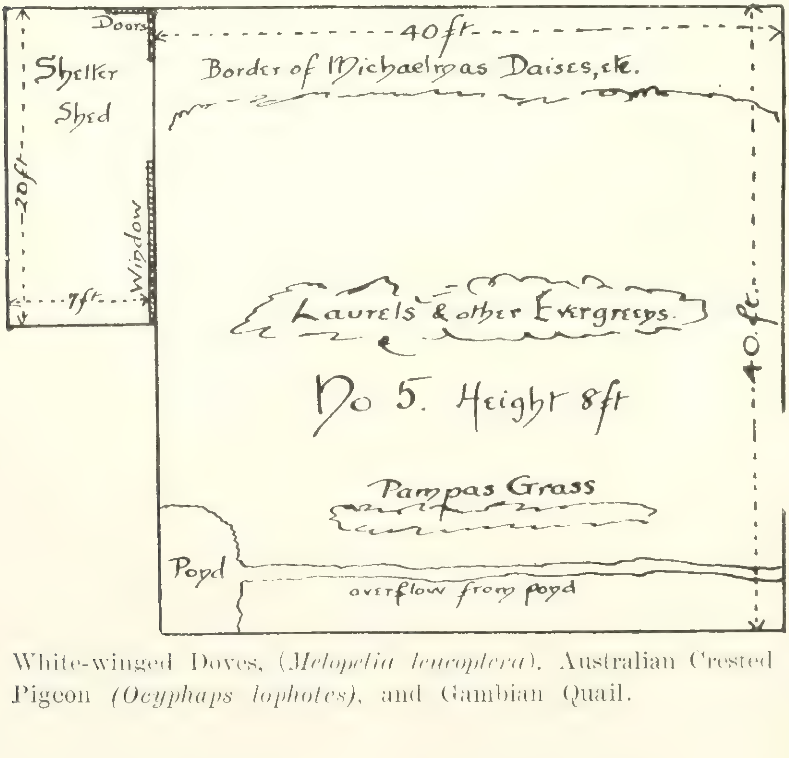
The Diamond Doves nested five times, hatching out a pair of squabs each time, but on each occasion deserting them before they were able to fend for themselves.

[This is very unusual, as this species are invariably excellent parents. ED.]

The Weavers wove endless nests and were most interesting to watch, but no eggs were laid.

None of the other species attempted to nest.

No. 5. Aviary (40ft. x 30ft. x 8ft.) contains Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*), Pagoda, Military, Red-winged, Brown-headed, and Yellow-winged Starlings, Silky Cowbirds (*Molothrus bonariensis*), Violet Doves (*Leptoptila jamaicensis*), White-winged Doves, (*Melopelia leucoptera*), Australian Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), and Gambian Quail.



Doors
Shelter Shed
20ft.
Window
7ft.
40ft.
Border of Michaelmas Daises, etc.
Laurels & other Evergreens.
No 5. Height 8ft
40 ft.
Pampas Grass
Pond
overflow from pond

This aviary was constructed too late in the autumn to give the birds any chance of nesting, but as this is one of the most natural of my aviaries I am hoping to do well in it this coming season.

The above ground plan indicates this in a measure, It is spacious, contains a running stream, and many plants and shrubs, and certainly ought to give good results.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 13.

COLUMBIDAE.

Pigeons and Doves are extremely plentiful here, forming a large proportion of the commonly seen birds and taking an almost larger share in one's ordinary bush menus.

Vinago nudirostris. GREEN PIGEON.

Range. Senegambia; North-east and East Africa. *(H.L.)*

These lovely Fruit Pigeons, clad in green, golden yellow and mauve, are common all the year round and are good to eat as they are to look upon. They are wandering birds, going about in parties and moving from place to place, as the different fruit-trees on which they feed ripen. At the beginning of the rainy season a more definite migration occurs, and large flocks, consisting almost entirely of young birds, pass over Bathurst, travelling more or less northward up the coast. These flights continue for about a week or a fortnight and then cease till the end of the rains, when again Green Pigeons are seen passing over Bathurst, but in much smaller numbers. With us most of them commence to breed about April, —by the middle of May there are always numbers of young about— but some must nest much earlier, as some young are about quite early in April. I have shot young Green Pigeons as early as April 10, and once found a nest as early as the second of that month, while I also have a note in 1909 that a female shot on February 3 dropped a fully formed egg. The nest is the most flimsy structure possible, consisting merely of a few twigs and rootlets twisted together to form such a bare apology for a nest, that one wonders however the eggs can remain in position and safety; they can always be easily seen from below. When the young are hatched they maintain their hold in the nest, which they are so quickly and constantly outgrowing, by automatically gripping with their feet one of the leaf-twigs to which the nest is fixed. This clutch is a very powerful one, and I should think quite instinctive and passive. The habit of holding tight to the perch persists in the young for long after they leave the nest, so that when one is shot from a tree, it nearly always remains hung up, gripping by its feet for some considerable time, though it may be quite dead and the grip entirely due to muscular contraction. All the nests I have seen have been in Tabu trees (a large-leaved evergreen), and placed among the leaves at the extreme end of the wide-spreading branches, generally about 12 feet from the ground, where it sways about with every breeze, but is comparatively safe from marauding animals, owing to its insecure position among the thin weak terminal branches. The hen sits very closely and seems not a whit disturbed by people continually passing underneath, as happens, when the nest, as is so often the case, is placed in a tree round which the huts of a Commissioner's compound are built.

The Green Pigeons are essentially arboreal in their habits and haunt the higher branches of big trees, though they may be occasionally tempted to lower ones by ripe fruit when all that on the upper branches is finished, but I think that they rarely come right down to the ground,—the natives say they never do, even to drink—and certainly I have never seen one there unless wounded or dead. Their food consists almost entirely of the fruit of different trees, particularly of the "Shoto" and "Kobbo," two kinds of wild fig, many of which grow to a considerable height. In one of these when full of ripe fruit one is nearly always sure of finding a party of Green Pigeons feeding. I used to think that they ate nothing but fruit, but in November, 1905, I shot several with their crops full of "Basso," which is one of the commonly grown native millets and which is very similar to what is known at home as "Dharri," and since then in most years I have often found the same at that season, although the birds were shot going to, from, or on one of these wild fig trees. At this time of year the "Basso" is just getting ripe and ready for cutting and no doubt is still sufficiently soft and succulent to appeal to a fruit-eater's palate; later on in the year there is never any corn of any sort in their crops, which only contain the seeds and other debris of bush-fruits. The adults are rather shy and wary birds, though they are easy to shoot if one waits for them under a tree full of fruit and fires just as they arrive and are about to alight. When feeding among the leaves their colours blend so well with their surroundings that they are most difficult to see, while the young with their more uniform green plumage are even more hard to locate, though when spotted are very easy to shoot, as they are much less suspicious than the old ones and will return again and again to their feast, in spite of losing one or more of their number at every shot.

The note of these Pigeons is a peculiar one, a sort of chuckling laugh, not very easy to imitate, but once heard never forgotten or to be confused with that of any other bird, and most useful as a guide to their whereabouts. It may more or less be represented thus: "Boo-Whoo; whu, whu, whup," the last short note being accented and going suddenly up and followed by a sharp break, after which the strain is repeated.

Mandingo names for the Green Pigeon are "Puto-puto" or "Puror-puror," while in some parts of the country a different name altogether, "Teyto-preto," is given to the young.*

Description. *Adult.* Head and neck greenish-grey, mantle bright olive green, upper tail-coverts the same but washed with yellow and having a yellow bar across the primaries; the greater part of the wing-coverts a lovely purple-mauve. Tail slaty-blue above, black with pale grey ends to the feathers below. Breast bright yellow, abdomen buff, under tail-coverts reddish-brown edged with fawn. Bill and bare patch on forehead blue-grey. The legs, which are feathered nearly all the way down the tarsus with pale fawn feathers are yellow-ochre, exactly the colour of good pie-crust. Iris magenta with a mauve-blue inner ring. Length 12½ inches.

The young differ considerably from the adults. They are distinctly smaller and lack the yellow breast, this part being entirely green; the shoulder-patch also is smaller and a paler duller mauve. The bill is pinkish grey at the end with a waxy red base and cere. Legs as in the adult. Iris brown. One often sees birds intermediate in plumage between the red-beaked young and the full yellow-breasted adult. In these the beak is pale brown in life but turns blue-grey after death. The breast is yellow but much paler and less extensive than in the adult and all the rest of the plumage, both green and mauve, is altogether duller. The iris is entirely magenta without any blue inner ring. The full plumage is probably not obtained till the bird is more than a year old, at any rate birds in young plumage are to be found nesting.

Columba guiniensis. GUINEA PIGEON.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Nigeria; North-east and East Africa. *(H.L.)*

This species (also known as the Triangular spotted Pigeon) is commonly called here the Rhun-Pigeon, because it roosts and nests among the stalks of the huge fan-shape leaves of the tall bulbous-trunked Rhun-palms and is only found in those parts of the country where these palms grow. They are therefore only locally distributed in the Gambia, but where found are quite common. They are particularly numerous in the McCarthy Island Province, though in certain places here, near trading stations which have recently sprung up or increased in size, they are much less common than they were when I first came to the country eight years ago. Unlike our other pigeons they seem easily frightened by the near neighbourhood of man, although they are never much sought after by gunners, as their flesh is dry and tasteless at its best, while at certain seasons it is almost uneatable. They are generally found in pairs or in small parties of not more than six, probably the old birds with perhaps two nests of young, as the latter remain with their parents for some time after leaving the nest. Their flight is strong but rather slow and they often soar and wheel about high in the air above the tops of the Rhuns, just as tame pigeons are fond of doing. Their note is a rapidly repeated " Koo-ku-ku-ku," the later notes getting shorter and shorter and following each other very quickly. They do well enough in captivity but are not often caught by the natives. Their Mandingo name is Kallawari.

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* In the Small Bird House at the Zoo there is this year (1910) a young Green Pigeon, and two years ago there was another specimen in the Western Aviary, both from another part of West Africa. I have had several alive for short periods, but none have survived to reach home.

The Rhun Pigeon is the largest Gambian Pigeon and is distinguished by having the neck-feathers bifurcated at the ends and by the white triangular spots on the wings. The head, back and under surface from chin to vent are ashy-grey, the nape, mantle and throat being washed with rufous, while a patch of bifurcated glossy black and white feathers ornaments the junction of the neck and breast. The wing-coverts are deep rufous and spotted with triangular white spots; the quills are grey bordered externally with red-brown; the under surface of the wings is pale slate. The tail-feathers are grey streaked and tipped with black above, brown below. Bill lead-coloured, feet black, iris a dirty pale amber colour. Length 14 inches.

To be continued.

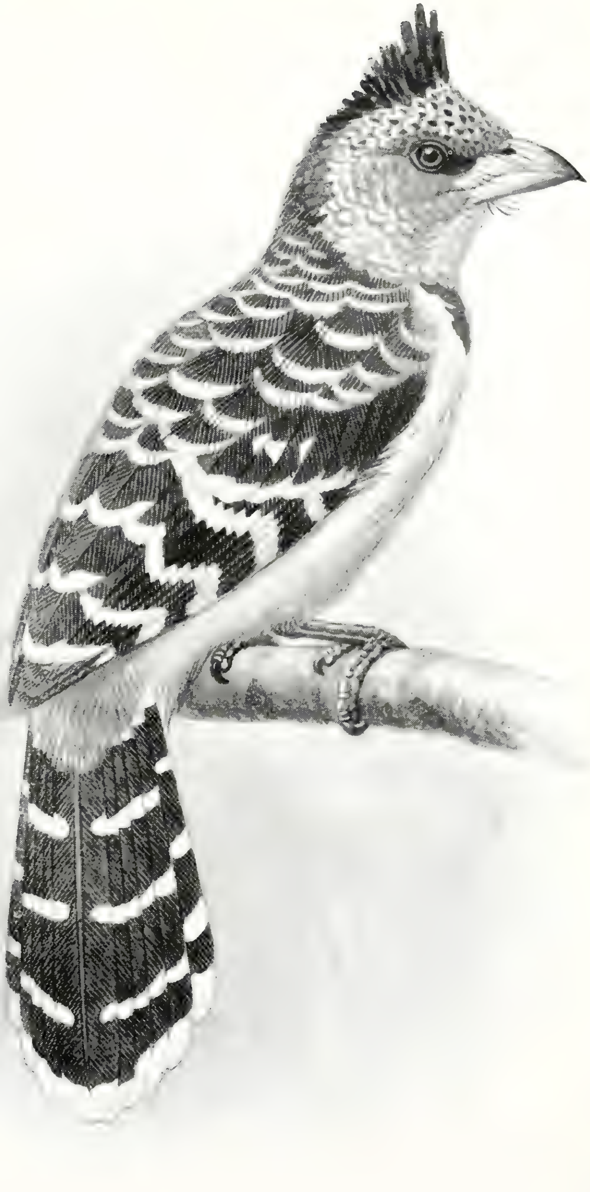
Levaillant's Barbet.

(Trachyphonus cafer).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Though practically so far as I can call to mind at the moment, only two living specimens have been imported into this country, one of these being in the possession of the London Zoo, and the other passed into the hands of Mr. H. D. Astly, then to Mr. O. Millsum, who exhibited it at the L.C.B.A. Show of 1909, eventually parting with it to Mr. S. Beaty, who exhibited it recently at the Edinburgh National Show, where the drawing which accompanies these notes was made, by our worthy artist, Mr. H. Goodchild. It is nevertheless quite common in its native country, but is not held in repute in the cultivated districts it frequents, as it levies a heavy toll on all ripe fruits.

It ranges over the Transvaal, Natal, Bechuanaland, Rhodesia, and Portugese East Africa.



LEVAILLANT'S BARBET. *(Trachyphonus cafer).*

Drawn from life from a specimen exhibited by S. Beaty, Esq., at the Scottish National Show.

Diet: Ripe fruit *ad. lib.*, any kind they will take, the more varied the better, also a liberal supply of live insects, soft food, and occassionally a little minced meat. Boiled rice (sweetened), stewed fruit, and milk sop, might also be given as a change. The above menu would suffice for most of the Barbets, but they have individual tastes, and you must supply and permit them to choose from some such dietary as the above.

They must, however, either be kept to themselves, or with similar strong and robust birds, for they are well able to account for birds much stronger than themselves—their importer (our esteemed member Major B. R. Horsbrugh) states that when he put a Meyer's Parrot into their large cage they would have killed it very quickly had he not been watching!

They are susceptible to cold, and are the better for a retiring box or log in their cage or flight, and if kept out of doors during the summer months must be brought in as soon as the nights turn cold.

With Mr. Goodchild's drawing before us, description will be a simple matter:—Crest and band across the chest black; upper back, wings, and tail black, scaled and barred with white; the black chest band is followed by a band of white, narrow in the centre, but much broader at the sides; remainder of plumage is light sulphur-yellow, the feathers of the head and sides of the face having dark centres and red tips, there are also a few red striations on the breast, and the upper tail-coverts are more or less tipped with red. Beak yellowish horn colour, legs blackish-grey, iris deep red.

From the above it will be readily seen what a beautiful and striking bird this species is; possibly our esteemed member, Mr. S. Beaty, will kindly send us a few notes of the treatment and demeanour of this bird in his bird-room,

Bourke's Parrakeet

(*Neophema Bourkei*).

By Hubert D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Whilst six of the seven species of the family of *Neophema* which are known, have green as the prevailing colour; Bourke's Parrakeet, the seventh, strikes out a line of its own, with the upper parts of soft mouse-brown, and the delicate rose and forget-me-not blue of the underparts, and the mouse-brown has Budgerigar-like scallopings of a pale yellow on the wings, with a touch of blue at the shoulders. I have had as many as twenty-two of these beautiful little birds, which after all, are not so *very* much larger than a Budgerigar, in my aviaries. Quiet and inoffensive amongst other species, they hold their own amongst each other at nesting time, an old male driving away his fellows, if they came too near the hollow log or coco-nut husk in which his mate is sitting on her four or five round white eggs. When he is courting, he spreads his wings out at the shoulders as a display, and his tail feathers too, uttering subdued chirrups, which are not unlike ehose of a Budgerigar, but of a softer and less shrill tone. There are also faint warbling notes, but the Bourke is altogether an extremely gentle, quiet little bird, and his gaiety is very inoffensive and restrained. He is never boisterous: he is almost dull at times. If he could suddenly become incarnated in a human body, I feel he would suddenly join a body of old-fashioned Quakers, and certainly never kick over the traces, or appear in connection with any society scandal!

His wife has disappeared and commenced her maternal duties before you are aware there had been much thought about it, and the same duties are generally in full swing before February is out. I think I have two breeding pairs, who generally produce at any rate two broods, and I have known three, between February and August. The young birds are almost counterparts of their parents, on issuing from the nest, and almost more lovely, so sleek and plump are they. Their tails and wings are shorter *pro tem*, and the rose and blue underparts less brilliant. I have seen four or five in a row outside a coco-nut, and wondered whether it *could* have held them all.

I have tried to rear one or two by hand after they have left the nest, but they are timid, and have not taken kindly to their foster-father. One ought to be able to do it, for I remember that a lady (Mrs. Ffoukes) used to rear Turquoisines by hand, one of which I had for some time; the dearest little bird, which would fly on to my shoulder, and which was like his Bourke cousin, charmingly restrained and "well-bred."

Bourke's Parrakeets, like all Parrakeets, need plenty of good and varied green food, besides seeds of different kinds; neither do they scorn a nibble at a dish of insectiverous mixture.

They are to a large extent birds that become very much more active as the evening approaches, for in the day time they will sit for a long time looking as if they had no "go" in them at all; but towards sunset, and afterwards until it is almost dark, they run swiftly over the ground, uttering their soft chirrups, and feeding in a little flock.

Upon dry ground they must be completely invisible when about amongst the grass in the Australian bush, and when they rise on the wing, their flight is swift. I find the Bourke's very hardy, for although they have a heated inner house into which they can go through an always open window, they often in winter time seem to prefer to sit exposed on perches out of doors in fog or rain, and sit still, too; which is more than I should care to do!

In an aviary they are fearless, often hardly moving when one walks up close to them. They are certainly birds to whom a close proximity improves, for it is only then that one can appreciate the delicate tints of their colouring, and they look their best when they are perched above you; then the wonderful contrast of the underparts shows to the highest advantage; the pink is that of a lovely blush rose, and the blue of the forget-me-not. Only in the Green Alexandra Parrakeet can these delicious and delicate colours be seen, and there they are on the throat and head. Bourke's Parrakeets, like Budgerigars and others of their tribe, seem to prefer to breed in little colonies; perhaps they are stimulated by a spirit of competition and natural jealousy: but my Bourkes were with me for four years before they nested—

that was some four years ago, since which time they have gone ahead, but there are always two or three deaths each year, with young birds falling out of their nests before their due time has arrived, to keep down their numbers; otherwise I ought to have about thirty by now!

Breeding White-eared and Red-whiskered Bulbuls, Shama, and Pekin Robin.

By Mrs. A. Mahon.

White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*): Passing through Bombay in 1908 on my way to Simla, out of pity I bought two miserable White-eared Bulbuls, mere babies; they over-eat themselves and nearly died of indigestion. I fed them every hour all the way to Simla, and they got on splendidly all through the year.

At the beginning of 1909, when I hoped they might build, one, the larger of the two, dropped dead. I wrote to friends in Cawnpore to get me another; I was quite uncertain which sex I required, and the friend who bought it for me—Major ———, just took the first offered and despatched it; it arrived safely and was very fit and lively. The two birds soon became inseparable, but, it had now become too late for them to build.

I brought all my birds home in January, 1910, and in May let them loose in a room which was well lighted with two windows, placing a very thick old box-tree (planted in a tub) in the centre. Building operations commenced at once and to my delight the White-eared built a beautiful nest, quite round, with a crimson perfumed pencil cord woven in, the tassle hanging out at the side.

My expectations were marred by many hopes and fears for the hen seemed egg-bound, and very drooping, but she got over it all right and patiently incubated her clutch of eggs for eleven days. I then tried to look in the nest but this they would not permit, coming round and pecking at my finger when I attempted to feel therein. She patiently sat for twenty-one days in all and then gave up. On examination I found two eggs, both being infertile. The nest was constructed of hay, horse hair, dry grass, and fine shavings.

Very shortly afterwards another nest was built in the same tree, of much the same type and decorated this time with pale blue wool. When incubation had lasted twelve to fourteen days, without as I thought any result, I had decided to steal an egg from the Red-whiskered Bulbuls nesting in the same tree and transfer it to the White-ear. I then found they were feeding two young as I thought, it must have been three, as I found a dead fledgling thrown out on the third day, and on getting on a chair and looking in the nest saw two very lively chicks still in the nest.

As parents they proved most self-denying and careful, so unlike the Red-whiskers, who would eat nearly a dozen mealworms each before feeding their babies; the White-ears never ate one till they had satisfied the wants of their hungry brood!

Two delightful young birds left the nest when about fourteen days old. Their plumage was brown, with the white ear patches, quite distinct, and very minute crests. At a very early age they were able to fend for themselves and rapidly developed into very fine and well feathered specimens. Imagine my feelings when I went into the aviary one afternoon, when I found one of the parent White-ears holding down one of the young birds and killing it—it died the next day, and I then sold the other young bird; the latter event was at the end of October, the bird was then full grown, and in beautiful plumage.

I conclude jealousy was the cause of the other bird's slaughter, for more affectionate or careful parents I have never seen in all my experiences of bird life*

The young were reared entirely on mealworms for more than a week; then they began to make use of banana, egg, and bread and milk. I should add the old birds were very tame, and I could do almost anything with them.

To be Continued.

[The male parent of many species of birds, both British and Foreign, kill off the young males when they begin to come into adult plumage. In a state of nature, at a given period the young birds separate from their parents and distribute themselves over the country.—Ed.]

L.P.O.S. Show.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

The 52nd annual Show was held at the Crystal Palace from Feb. 3rd. to 7th, inclusive. As in past years the management left nothing to be desired, practically everything that could be done, was done, to make the conditions perfect, and Mr. Ramsden and his colleagues must be congratulated on having achieved another well deserved success.

The Foreign Section I do not however, consider equal to past years, though many rare and beautiful birds were staged for this I blame the building, and the foreign bird exhibitors will at any rate rejoice when the *venu* of the show is changed for some more suitable building than the historic glass house, notwithstanding the associations connected therewith, for the draught nuisance evidently cannot be remedied in spite of all that human ingenuity can suggest, and not only did the visiting public suffer discomfort, but that the birds of this section also suffered from the conditions was only too palpable by their demeanour, and caused the exquisite beauty and attractiveness of many of the exhibits not to be fully realised. The precautions taken against draughts unfortunately obscured the light. These remarks, a strict sense of duty compels me to make, though I regret to offer any depreciatory observations concerning a society of which I am a member, ... the sole fault is the unsuitable character of the C.P. for such an exhibition. *Draught is as deadly poison to all species of birds!*

The Rare Exhibits: Many of these have already been noted in *Bird Notes* in earlier reports, and only those not previously noted will be chosen for special mention.

The Cock of the Rock *(Rupicola crocea):* This bird, though now well known to visitors to the London Zoo, was a first appearance on the Show bench, and naturally a centre of great interest the whole period of the Show. It was one of the birds collected by Mr. W. Frost, for Sir William Ingram, in the early part of last year, and passed into the possession of Monsieur Pauvvels about October, and he is certainly to be congratulated on the perfect condition in which the bird was staged.

A few notes on their wild life and treatment in captivity will doubtless be of interest.

Mr. Frost wrote an account of his experiences in collecting the birds, in the *Avicultural Magazine,* from which I glean the following interesting notes:—Mr. Frost found the species on the northern slipes of the Merume Mountains, British Guiana . . . . . the formation of the Merume range reminds one of a gigantic stone wall, from which the top courses have been dislodged, forming a heap of debris all along the foot . . . . . over all is the thick dark tangle of bush. . . . . ..A nest was found, it was stuck to the face of an overhanging boulder, about 14ft. up, on a small sloping edge . . . .the hen sat very close. . . .on examination the nest appeared to be built of fibrous material, worked up with some gelatinous substance, and plastered on the outside with dried lichen or moss; in shape forming about two thirds of a circle. It contained two eggs, about the size of a pigeon's, dirty white, with large rusty coloured blotches at the larger end. . . . . . numerous dancing places were found . . . . .The dances were always started by an old cock who, taking up a position on a horizontal or slightly sloping branch, preferably a fallen one, at a height of 3 to 4 feet, would start squawking out a challenge . . . . . .Presently he would start jumping back and forth from his perch to the ground, giving a quick swirl with open wings and tail, as he struck the ground and turned to regain the branch . . . . .others joining in, until with seven or eight birds flashing up and down, faster and faster, it began to look something like a dance . . . . .no hens were observed, though they may have been watching overhead, hidden among the thick foliage.

At the Zoo I noticed a somewhat similar performance, with the addition that as the bird regained the top perch the wings were dropped, the tail outspread, the crest opened at the front and brought forward till the beak was almost obscured. Mr. Millsum at the Show described to me a similar performance, which he said was frequently indulged in.

The specimen is kept in Monsieur Pauvvels' bird-room in a cage about 30 inches square by 3 feet high.

In captivity they require a diet of ripe fruit, soft food, and live insects. The soft food or insectivorous mixture is best given in the form of small pellets or it is but seldom taken. Mr. Frost also found them to be fond of boiled rice, sweetened with condensed milk, and coloured with black-currant or blackberry jam.

Description is scarcely necessary, as in Mr. Goodchild's drawing, form, and character are well rendered. It will suffice to state the light areas in drawing are fiery orange, with the exception of a white wing patch; all the dark patches are black. Beak and legs also orange, iris of the eye deep ruddy-orange.

The female is blackish brown, which is also the colour of the crest, beak and legs; the middle of abdomen and ventral region are washed with orange and there is a large patch of orange on the underside of wings. The crest is much smaller than that of the male.

The greatest credit attaches to the owner of this bird, in placing it upon the bench in practically full natural colour, as after the moult in captivity their plumage is whitish-orange; Mr. Millsum informed me that they had managed to retain the natural colour by colour-feeding—pellets of red feed and insectile mixture, being placed inside grapes and readily taken in this form. Monsieur

Pauwels is to be congratulated on so unique a possession. It carried off premier honours and a special.

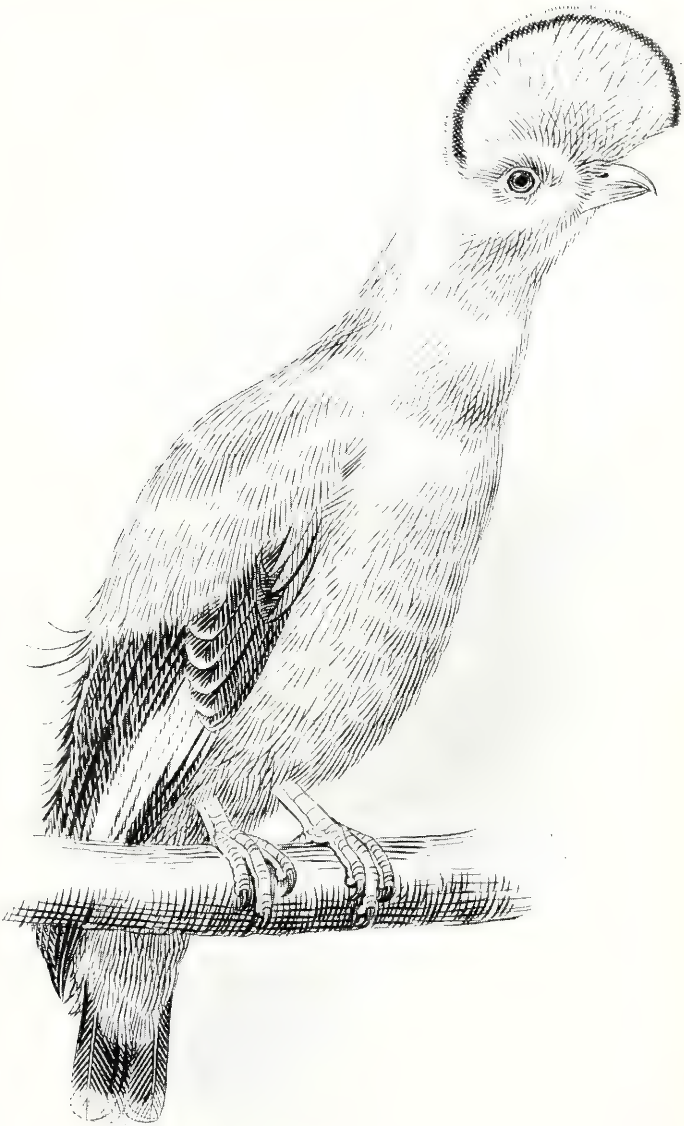
THE PURPLE SUN-BIRD *(Arachnecthra asiatica)*: A perfect specimen of this unique feathered gem was staged by Mr. C. T. Maxwell, and he certainly deserves every credit for successfully moulting it; the species now being seen in full nuptial dress for the first time as a living bird—out of colour it was exhibited at the recent L.C.B.A. Show at the Horticultural Hall. Space will not permit me to linger as I fain would do, and it is almost impossible to describe its iridescent plumage by pen painting, or for that matter by brush either. The best description I have yet seen is from the pen of our esteemed member D. Dewar, and I here quote it in full, from his interesting book "Birds of the Plains." "Of the cocks of the first and second species *(A. lotens* " and *asiatica)* it may perhaps be said that they are clothed in " purple and fine linen, for their plumage is a deep, rich purple " with a sheen and a gloss like that on a brand-new silk hat. " Sometimes the bird looks black, at others green, and more fre- " quently mauve, according to the intensity of the light and the " angle at which the sun's rays fall upon it . . . If the cocks of above " are clothed in purple and fine linen, that of the yellow species " *(A. zeylonica)* may be said to be arrayed in a coat of many " colours, each of which is so beautiful as to defy imitation by the " painter. There is a patch on the crown, which appears metallic " lilac in some lights, and emerald-green in others. His neck and " upper back are dull crimson, the lower back, chin, and throat " are brilliant metallic purple. The tail and wing feathers are " dark brown. There is a maroon collar below the throat and " the plumage from this collar downwards is bright yellow. Verily, " Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Those who had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Maxwell's brilliant gem will I am sure agree with me that the above is not too laudatory.

Their diet in captivity is similar to that of the Sugar-birds; ripe fruit, such as sweet grapes, banana, etc., milk sop sweetened with honey and a few small insects. Some give a little pure honey as well. Their food in a state of nature consists of the nectar of flowers and minute insect life. Awarded premier honours and three specials.

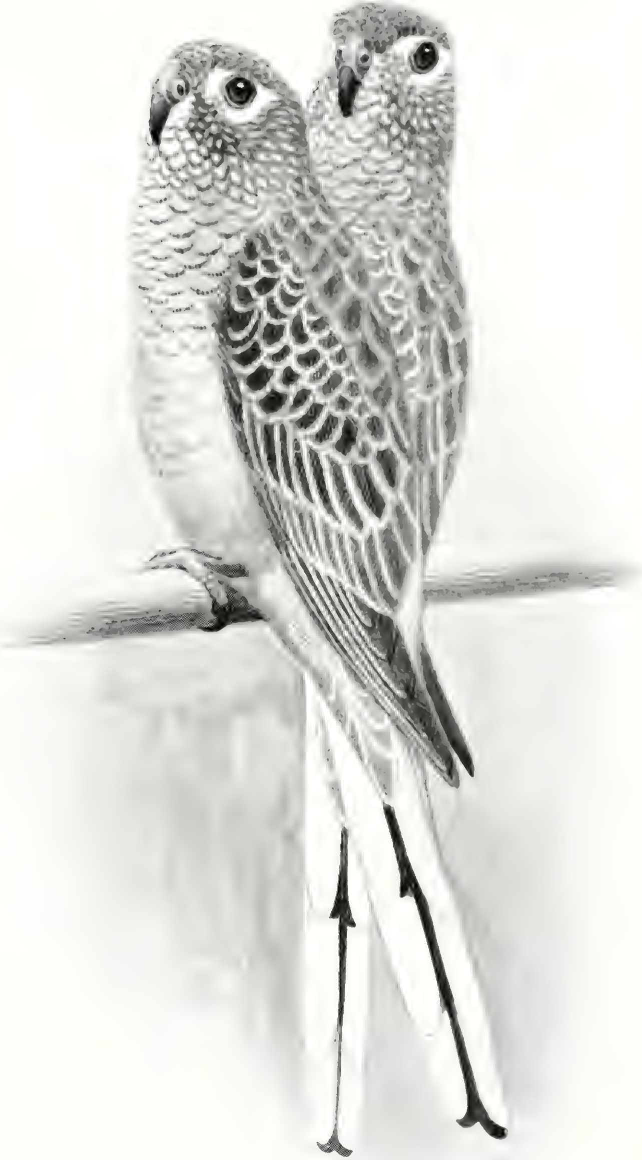
EVERITT'S PARROT *(Tanygnathus everitti)*: Another unique specimen which I believe has not been exhibited before, but as this species was only recently described by its fortunate owner, the Rev. G. H. Raynor, I must refer readers to January issue of *Bird Notes*, current volume.

BLACK-THROATED HANGNEST *(Icterus mesomelas)*: A fine specimen of this uncommon species, which I also believe to be a first appearance, was shown by our esteemed member Mr. S. M. Townsend. All the Hangnests are beautiful and striking birds, full of character, and



COCK OF THE ROCK. *(Rupicola crocea)*.

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild, from a specimen exhibited by Mons Pauvvels, at the L.P.O.S. National Show.



BOURKE'S PARRAKEET.

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild, from specimens exhibited by
Miss Peddie Waddel, at the Scottish National Show.

as cage pets are unequalled, becoming very chummy, fearless, and tricky. Moreover, once they have got over the first few critical weeks in this country are not difficult to keep fit, and are then fairly long-lived. They are natives of South America, and can be successfully wintered in a cold room without artificial heat, but I consider them the better for a minimum temperature of 45 degrees F. during that period. The hues of the plumage of most of the species are either rich yellow and black, or orange and black, distributed in varying proportions. This specimen was in exquisite condition and an extremely beautiful bird, in its garment of rich orange-yellow and black, the former colour predominating. Another rare Hangnest, the White-winged *(Icterus bullocki)*, was shown by our esteemed member, Mr. A. J. B. O'Neil, it was in perfect condition, and a very beautiful bird, which I do not remember to have seen on the bench before.

SUGAR-BIRDS: No less than six specimens of these lovely "Blue Creepers" were staged, not one of which was in poor condition, but the palm for tightness of plumage and rich colouration must go to Mr. Townsend's exquisite Yellow-winged, this specimen is getting almost patriarchal, the present being its sixth annual appearance at the Palace Show. The Purple Sugar-bird till quite recently has been much rarer than the Yellow-winged species, which is well known, and of which a coloured plate appeared in Vol. VI. of the Club Journal. The Purple, as its name would indicate, has an iridescent garment of purple and black, flashing like sparkling gems. The dainty grace and minute form of these birds as well as their extreme beauty endear them to all bird lovers. Like many other species, they are difficult to establish, but once this is accomplished, they are not difficult to keep fit. Diet: Milk sop, made from either fresh or condensed milk, crumbled sponge cake, and Mellin's food; ripe fruit—grapes and banana, with an occasional mealworm or other small insect.

The space at my disposal for the rarer birds, has been more than occupied, and I must now proceed to review the respective classes. H. T. T. Camps, F.Z.S. judged the Parrot classes, and F. Finn, M.A., F.Z.S. the remainder, their awards with one or two exceptions being well received.

BUDGERIGARS HANGING PARROTS, ETC. (5): This class, containing only five entries, but all were of exceptional merit. The Blue Budgerigars being one of the attractions of the Show—it only remains to say the birds were very fit and beautiful, and to refer readers to the coloured plate and Mr. Millsum's article in our last issue. Mr. S. M. Townsend's remarkable Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, was looking better than ever, most certainly one of the richest coloured specimens ever seen.

1 R. Pauvvels, true pair Blue Budgerigars; 2 S. M. Townsend, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot; 3 Colville and Son, true pair Yellow Budgerigars; 4 R. J. Watts, Red-faced Lovebird; v.h.c. C. T. Maxwell, Red-crowned Hanging Parrots.

All Species Parrakeets Lories, Etc. (7): Another small class, but containing some birds of exceptional merit. The most notable perhaps being Monsieur Pauvvels' Hooded Parrakeet, this specimen was in exquisite plumage and of a very rich colour, being certainly one of the most attractive birds in the Parrot classes—but they were fully dealt with in our last volume. Mr. Maxwell's pair of Brown's Parrakeets were also uncommon and very fine.

1 and 2 and special R. Pauvvels, cock Hooded Parrakeet and true pair Bourke's Parrakeets; 3 C. T. Maxwell, true pair Brown's Parrakeets; 4 A. J. B. O'Neill, true pair Ceram Lories, wee bit rough; v.h.c. C. T. Maxwell, Queen Alexandra's Parrakeet, wee bit soft; h.c., C. Cushney, Redrump Parrakeet; c. L. S. B. Clarke, Ringneck Parrakeet.

All Species Parrots, Cockatoos, Etc. (10): What would have been one of the rarest birds in the Show, viz., the Pigmy Parrot, unfortunately escaped during the process of unpacking, and thus the sight of a *rara avis* was lost. The sympathy of all the members will be with Monsieur Pauvvels in his great loss. The next rarity was an Everitt's Parrot, which we have already noted. Next we must note a good specimen of the very uncommon Hawk-headed Parrot, one of two personally brought over from British Guiana by our esteemed member E. W. Harper, F.Z.S., about three years ago. A coloured plate of this species with descriptive article appeared in Vol. VI. of the club journal.

1 R. Pauvvels, Hawk-headed Parrot; 2 and 3 Rev. G. H. Raynor, Meyer's and Everett's Parrots, both rare; 4 Mrs. L. Thorpe, Yellow-naped Amazon, very uncommon; v.h.c. J. Mackenzie, very fine Senegal Parrot; h.c. Leach and Leckie, Leadbeater's Cockatoo; c. W. S. Smith, true pair Grand Eclectus Parrots. A Macaw, and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo also competed.

Avadavats and Certain Named Species (11): Always an interesting class, for many very beautiful birds are to be found among the freely imported species, and it is a matter of great surprise that this class does not assume huge proportions—practically the whole of the exhibits were in the best of condition.

1, 2, and 3, F. Howe, Gold-breasted Waxbills, grand colour; good pair Diamond Finches, and one of the best pairs of St. Helena Waxbills ever staged; 4 A. C. Young, true pair Ribbon Finches, large and perfect; v.h.c., R. J. Watts, Diamond Finch; h.c. Rev. J. M. Paterson, Java Sparrow; c. Allum Bros., Ribbon Finches. Good specimens of Cutthroats, Java Sparrows, and Spice Finches also competed.

All Species Waxbills, Grassfinches, etc. (16): The largest foreign class in the show and containing many exquisitely beautiful species, the rarities of which appear to be the Red-rumped Weaver, noted in the L.C.B.A. report and a little Jamieson's Waxbill, which appeared very unhappy in its draughty corner. Other birds we may mention as of exceptional merit were a pair of Painted Finches and an exquiste Melba Finch.

1 F. Howe, Melba Finch, one of the richest coloured specimens we have ever seen; 2, R. Pauvvels, true pair Painted

Finches, very rich in colour; 3 C. T. Maxwell, Red-headed Gouldian Finch, very rich colour, never seen better; 4 H. Blctting, true pair Rufous-backed Mannikins; v.h.c., and h.c. J. M. Walsh, Violet-eared Waxbill and Red-headed Finch; c. C. T. Maxwell, Red-rumped Weaver, wee-bit rough. Good specimens of Blue-breasted Waxbills, wee-bit rough. Good Painted and Red-headed Finches, Pintail Nonpareil, Jamieson's Waxbill, Chestnut and Parrot Finches also competed.

ALL SPECIES GROSBEAKS, TRUE FINCHES. (4): The smallest class we remember for many years, and calls for no special mention, save perhaps to remark that one was glad to see the Nonpareil Bunting once more.

1 C. T. Maxwell, Nonpareil Bunting, very tight and fit, but very pale colour; 2 Mrs. E. Galloway, good pair Blue Grosbeaks; 3 R. Pauwels, true pair Nonpareil Bunting, slightly rough but almost full natural colour.

ALL SPECIES OF TANAGERS. (11): Nothing new was exhibited here, but we may note two Rufous-throated Blue Sugar-birds were passed by the judge as in their wrong class. This we consider distinctly hard lines without due notice being given, seeing that for two seasons the species has been accepted in the Tanager class, though it is an undoubted Sugar-bird and strictly speaking the judge's act was perfectly correct.

1 Pitchford and Stocker, Necklace Tanager, excellent specimen, but showing signs of the wear and tear of the show season; 2 J. M. Walsh, Black-throated Tanager, exquisite colour and condition, in the writer's opinion should have been first; 3 & 4 C. T. Maxwell, Black-backed and Petre's Tanagers, both in exquisite condition; v.h.c. J. M. Walsh, Maroon Tanager, rich colour; h.c. and c. S. Beaty, Black-backed and Tri-colour Tanagers. Excellent specimens of Superb Tanagers also competed.

ALL SPECIES SUGAR-BIRDS, HONEYEATERS, ETC. (10): All exquisite exhibits, but my readers are all acquainted with the respective species and the Purple Sun- and Sugar-birds have been already noted.

1 C. T. Maxwell, Purple Sun-bird; a glowing gem, its iridescent plumage flashing like brilliants; 2 S. M. Townsend, Banana Quit, uncommon and perfect; 3 A. Morris, Purple Sugar-bird, rich colour, very tight; 4 S. M. Townsend, Yellow-winged Sugar-bird, perfect in every respect, never seen better; v.h.c. and c. C. T. Maxwell, Black-headed Sugar-bird, very silky and tight, and Purple Sugar-bird; h.c., Pitchford and Stocker, Gold-fronted Green Bulbul. Other excellent specimens of Purple and Yellow-winged Sugar-birds also competed.

ALL SPECIES, SMALLER THAN KING BIRD OF PARADISE. (11) Several birds of great interest and rarity were included here, but space will not permit comment, most have been already noted and a coloured plate is to appear in the current volume of Mr. Maxwell's exquisite Great-billed Flycatcher. Mr. Beaty experienced rather hard luck in having his unique Levalliant's Barbet passed as being too large for this class, for it is outside by a very small margin indeed.

> 1 C. T. Maxwell, Great-billed Flycatcher, beautiful and perfect; 2 and 4 J. M. Walsh, White-eyebrowed Wood Swallow and pair of Black-headed Sibias, both in perfect condition, steady, and richly coloured; 3 A. J. B. O'Neill, White-winged Hangnest, rare and beautiful; v.h.c., C. T. Maxwell, Blue-winged Siva, a very interesting and beautiful species, which was first introduced to English aviculture by our esteemed member E. W. Harper; h.c. S. M. Townsend, Black-throated Hangnest, very beautiful and rare; c. Otto Pack, good Shama. Good specimens of Chinese Painted Quails, Mexican Green Jay, Levalliant's Barbet, and Shama also competed.

ALL SPECIES LARGER THAN KING BIRD OF PARADISE (6): The Cock of the Rock was one of the greatest attractions of the Show, and the aisle in its vicinity was in a more or less congested state during the whole period of the exhibition. Other exhibits were: Gold-crested Mynahs, Crested Wood Partridge, and a Black-billed Toucan, mostly already noted.

> 1 R. Pauvvels, Cock of the Rock, staged in grand condition, and in full natural colour; 2 S. Watson, Black-billed Toucan, very fit, rare and beautiful; 3 C. T. Maxwell, Crested Wood Partridge, very steady, handsome, and rare; 4 C. Cushney, Purple-headed Glossy Starling, perfect and beautiful; v.h.c. C. Cushney, Indian Pitta, perfect condition, quaint and handsome, a black and white figure of this species was given in Vol. I. New Series, of our Club Journal; h.c. J. M. Walsh, Gold-crested Mynahs, very uncommon and fit.

SPECIAL WINNERS.

Pier's trophy for Best Australian Bird: R. Pauvvels—Hooded Parrakeet.

Championship Diploma for Best Foreign Bird: C. T. Maxwell—Purple Sun-bird.

Abraham's Memorial Trophy: R. Pauvvels—Cock of the Rock.

Palace Silver Medal for Best Bird, other than winners of specials, 162 and 163: C. T. Maxwell—Queen Alexandra Parrakeet.

Palace Bronze Medal for best v.h.c. in classes 136 to 142: C. T. Maxwell—Black-headed Sugar-bird.

Five Shillings by G. Crabb, Esq., for Best h.c.: S. Beaty—Black-backed Tanager.

F.B.C. Silver Challenge Cup and Medals: See Inset, page 24.

Trower Gold Medal for Most Points:
Trower Silver Medal for Second Most Points:
Trower Bronze Medal for third Most Points:
No record at time of going to press

Bound Volume (A. Pearson, Ltd.) for Best Bird shown by a lady: Mrs. L. Thorpe—Yellow-naped Amazon.

The writer wishes to congratulate the members on the beautiful and rare birds staged, for with the exception of some half dozen entries, all the exhibits were sent by members of F.B.C.

I must ask their forebearance, but owing to the date of the Show coinciding with the time of our going to press, this report has had to be written against time, it is too lengthy, and time has been altogether too short for either research or revision.

For list of Club Specials see report of our esteemed Exhibitional Secretary on page 24 of inset.

Book Notices and Reviews

CANARIES, HYBRIDS, AND BRITISH BIRDS IN CAGE AND AVIARY Cassell and Co. In monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part XI. The interest is well maintained, and the text is illustrated with many practical diagrams of wings, etc. The chapter on "Breeding evenly marked Canaries" is completed, and chapters on "The Green Canary" and "The Common Canary" are included. The frontispiece is a coloured plate of dark mules, figuring four varieties, viz: Yellow Siskin, Yellow Linnet, Yellow Goldfinch, and Buff Twite. There are also excellent black and white illustrations of typical specimens of the varieties dealt with in the text.

THE BIRDS OF THE BRITISH ISLANDS. By Charles Stonham, C.M.G., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S., with illustrations by L. M. Medland, F.Z.S. Part xvii. Roy. quarto, 7s. 6d. Grant Richards, Ltd.

This part, bringing us within an appreciable distance of the completed work, deals with the six Terns which are more or less well known as migrants to our shores; with seven more recorded as rare and accidental visitors; with Sabine's Gull; and with the True Gulls down to the Herring Gull.

No fewer than twenty-one plates are given; eight species being accorded two each, and one, the Black-headed Gull, being illustrated in adult summer, in adult winter, and in three stages of immature, plumage. And it is scarcely too much to say that, good as Miss Medland's work has been in the past, it has now come to such a pitch of excellence as fully to warrant the opinion expressed by one of our most distinguished artists, that she is unrivalled in her delineation of feather effects. More than that one cannot help seeing that, while her accuracy as to feather is due to careful study of skins, it can only be by an equally careful study in many cases of the live bird itself, that she has been able to catch its graceful attitudes, and life-like expression under various conditions. Take for instance the charming pictures of the Little Tern, just about to dip for its prey, and the Black-headed Gull standing over its nestling and uttering its clamorous note. These alone would make an artist's reputation.

The letterpress is equally gratifying to the student. Mr.

Stonham has the enviable faculty of going over a wide range of information in terse, yet smoothly written sentences, giving evidence on every page, not only of a full acquaintance with the literature of his subject, but also of much loving and single-hearted research at first hand, especially with regard to the habits of the birds.

The only fault in connection with this book is the unconscionable delay in the appearance of the parts. The prospectus issued to the subscribers stated that the work would see completion in about two years. That was early in 1905, but at the rate which has latterly obtained, we may only hope to see the last of three remaining parts issued some time in 1912!

Editorial.

Foreign Birds: In reply to several enquiries we beg to state that this series will be resumed in March issue.

Hipped Wing: Mr. Gray kindly promises to give full details with diagrams at as early a date as possible.

Jackson's Whydah *(Depranoplectus jacksoni):* During a recent visit to the Zoo with a friend, I had an opportunity of observing this fine and rare species, and also of witnessing their display. The male is black, save for some buff-brown margins to the wings feathers. The general appearance of the birds greatly resembles that of the Giant Whydah *(Chera procne),* but the tail is not so long, and the feathers are distinctly curved longitudinally. The female is a brown bird, lighter on the surface, with very sharply defined dark brown striations, regularly distributed all over the body; eye-streaks above and below the eye whitish. When displaying, the wings are dropped, the plumage, particularly that of the head, shaken loose, the back appearing to be quite incurved and the head and neck stretched upwards, almost at right angles to the body, and the feathers of the tail carried in the form of a crescent—the whole attitude is somewhat stiff and ludicrous, accompanied as it is by a sort of prancing dance. Though not so showy as some of its *confreres,* it is nevertheless a very handsome and interesting species.

We have so many claims upon our space this issue, that the usual notes under this heading must be held over till March.

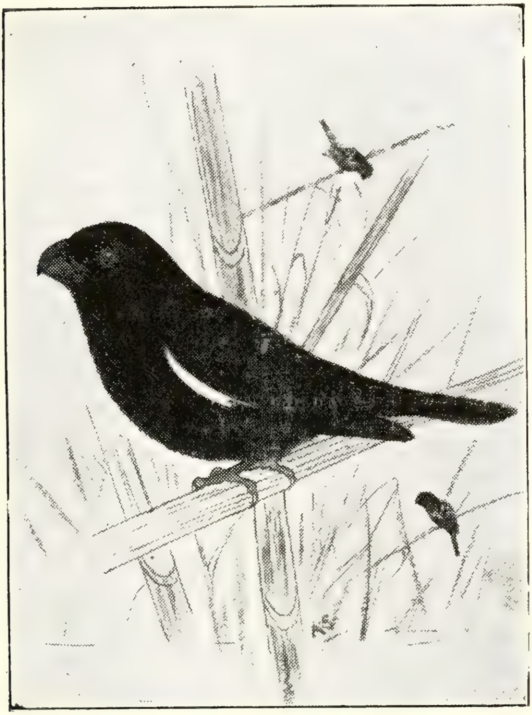
Correspondence.

THE BLACK SEED-FINCH.

Sir.—Among recent arrivals I came across this interesting species. Luer, of East Street, Walworth, has a few examples of the Black Seed-Finch (*Melopyrrha nigra* , two of which I bought. These little Cuban birds resemble minature Bullfinches with a good conduct stripe on their "arms" of white. Their manners, however, are those of a Waxbill. The male of the Thick-billed Seed Finch, although much bigger and with a much larger bill, resembles the cock of this species a little. The female however of the Black Seed-Finch is almost identical with the male, whereas as you no doubt know the female of the Thick-billed Finch is an olivaceous bird very unlike the male.

The birds resemble the (*Phonipparinae*) in mannerisms and are rightly included in that group not having the upripht carriage of a *Spermophila*.

ALLEN SILVER.



Block kindly lent by Editor of Canary & Cage Bird Life.

BIRD PROTECTION VAGARIES.

Sir.—In consequence of a recent judical interpretation of the Acts relating to Wild Birds, the possession, sale, and purchase of such birds legally and lawfully taken elsewhere is in danger of becoming prohibited in the County of London. The Bye-Law in question was intended for the protection of birds in that district, and not to prevent citizens possessing legitimately acquired property, in the shape of birds caught in other districts and sold to them. On this account the N.B.B. and M. Club deputed a small body to approach the S.P.B. and R.S.P.C.A. with a view to getting these Acts placed on a business-like basis, and at the same time to suggest matters of reform in connection with Live Stock and Bird Shops. Their efforts in this direction having proved fruitless, a petition has been drawn up to approach the Home Secretary on the matter, with a view to some amendment of the Bye-law, and the question of placing Bird shops under the control of the Sanitary Anthorities will be suggested. I need hardly point out that the hobby of keeping a few birds for pleasure or study will be seriously curtailed in time should this deputation not be successful, *and I trust that all those who may come in contact with this petition will, in the interests of their hobby, sign it.* It is indeed unfortunate that because of a few offenders, that bird-keeping in general should be considered equally undesirable by a certain section of the community, many of whom encourage and support great cruelty to birds by wearing feathers and wild birds preferring to conform to fashion than to lessen cruelty, and yet are members of the S.P.B., and R.S.P.C.A.!! I am afraid unless we try to get some representation of our interests, the matter will shortly get extended to Foreign Birds and so on, until our present hobby (which has from small beginnings reached considerable prominence) will be entirely annulled. ALLEN SILVER.

The Club Dinner and Testimonial Fund.

This function took place at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, February 4th, notice of which was published in January issue of *Bird Notes.*

The gathering was of a very pleasurable character, and it is hoped also a profitable one, as club matters were discussed and new ideas were ventilated, which may prove helpful to the future progress of the F.B.C.

The following toasts were proposed: The King (Mr. W. T. Rogers), Our Guest (Mr. W. T. Rogers), Success to the Foreign Bird Club (Mr. Sutcliffe). All were enthusiastically received and responded to.

The occasion was of peculiar interest, as it afforded the chairman the opportunity of making a Presentation to our Hon. Editor (Mr. Wesley T. Page), on behalf of those who had subscribed to the Testimonial Fund, which had reached a total of £83. The presentation took the form of an Illuminated Address, with the names of the subscribers engrossed thereon. It was greatly admired by those present, and regarded as a suitable expression of the esteem and kindly sentiments entertained towards the Hon. Editor.

After the presentation had been made, Mr. WESLEY PAGE, in response, stated that he rose to acknowledge the presentation with very mixed feelings, and that it was impossible for him to adequately express the keen appreciation he did and ought to feel. He was entirely taken by surprise, as he was under the impression that he had vetoed anything of the kind, when stipulating that the only recognition he could accept for any small services he had been able to render the club (it had been, a "labour of love" if such a term were permissable), was the raising of a sum of money to put the club's finances in an easier position, as stated in the circular sent round. While fully appreciating the members' kindness and the great honour conferred upon him, he had a feeling of regret that money had been spent upon such an object, especially as the full sum stated on circular (£125) was needed to make the working of the club easy. At the same time he gratefully accepted the beautiful address which had been presented to him that night, and also the sentiment expressed. He found himself utterly at a loss to express what he really felt, and must ask the donors to accept a hearty English "thank you." In regard to the work he had done for the club, he must insist that with him must be associated his colleagues during his term of office, viz., Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, Messrs. S. M. Townsend, Tinniswood Miller, H. Wilford, the Magazine Committee, and Council —also the work of his predecessors in the editorial chair—Mr. H. R. Fillmer, Mr. H. Goodchild, and Dr. W. G. Creswell, all of whom had contributed to the present day position of the Foreign Bird Club.

Some of the suggestions made were as follows:—

That a series of meetings be held during the winter season in some central position, and that a lecture and discussion on avicultural topics form the basis of these gatherings. A collection to be made at each to defray the necessary expenses, which would be very small. It is hoped that members will communicate their views to the Hon. Editor at once—suggesting time, locality, and character—it is quite possible to arrange for one in late March or April if such be done.

That the meetings at the Zoo, commenced last year, be continued and extended in other directions as far as possible.

That every member be urged to secure another member, so that the number required—about 400—to comfortably meet the needs of the club, be quickly attained; as unless the bulk and illustrations of the Magazine were reduced, the amount representing any shortage of that number, must be the total of an annual deficit!

A permanent increase of our subscriptions was neither necessary nor desirable—as above all it was desired that our membership should be truly national. It was suggested by several that the difficulty might be got over by each member paying the cost of postage and distribution of the magazine, viz., 1s. 9d. per year, which would produce a sum of about £15 annually at our present membership. It was also suggested that in the *middle of each year*, a small donation to the Illustration Fund be sent, till such times as our membership reached the required 400.

The character of the coloured plates was mooted, and the opinion was expressed, that they should be of such species, as far as possible, that had not been figured in popular works or by the "fancy" press.

It was hoped by these present at the gathering that the members generally would freely express their opinion by correspondence which may be sent either to the Hon. Editor or Bus. Secretary.

Mr. W. T. Rogers presided, and made the presentation.

By request a facsimile of the address will appear in next issue of "*B.N.*" W. T. R.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

YELLOW-WINGED SUGAR-BIRD. (The Hon. Mrs. Bourke). The cause of death was chronic double pneumonia with consequent enlarged liver. This type of pneumonia with consolidation is rare in birds.

DIAMOND FINCH ♂. (Miss Drummond, Errol, N.B.) Septic fever was the cause of death. The liver and spleen were full of yellow nodules, which caused these organs to become very much enlarged. Refer to answer to "Two Lizard Canaries" on p. 30, *Bird Notes*, January, 1911.

PARROT FINCH ♀. (M. Bousfield, Bournemouth). When writing in future give species of bird sent for post mortem. The ovary was in an active state of ovulation. Some of the ovules were almost as large as a small marble. There was also some chronic disease of the lungs, accompanied by a few figseed-like nodules.

CHESTNUT BREASTED FINCH. (Rev. John M. Paterson, Sussex). The cause of death was inflammation of lungs, probably stimulated into activity by excitement.

TWO BISHOPS AND WHITE JAVA SPARROW. (Miss Edith Brickwood). The cause of death seems to me to be due to want of a sufficient supply of food, and perhaps also from the effects of cold.

MADAGASCAR LOVE-BIRD ♀. (Dr. Philip Gosse, Hants). Cause of death, inflammation of right lung.

DIAMOND FINCH. (Miss Drummond, Errol, N.B.). Death was due to septic or bird fever. The liver and spleen were affected in the same manner as in the cock mentioned above.

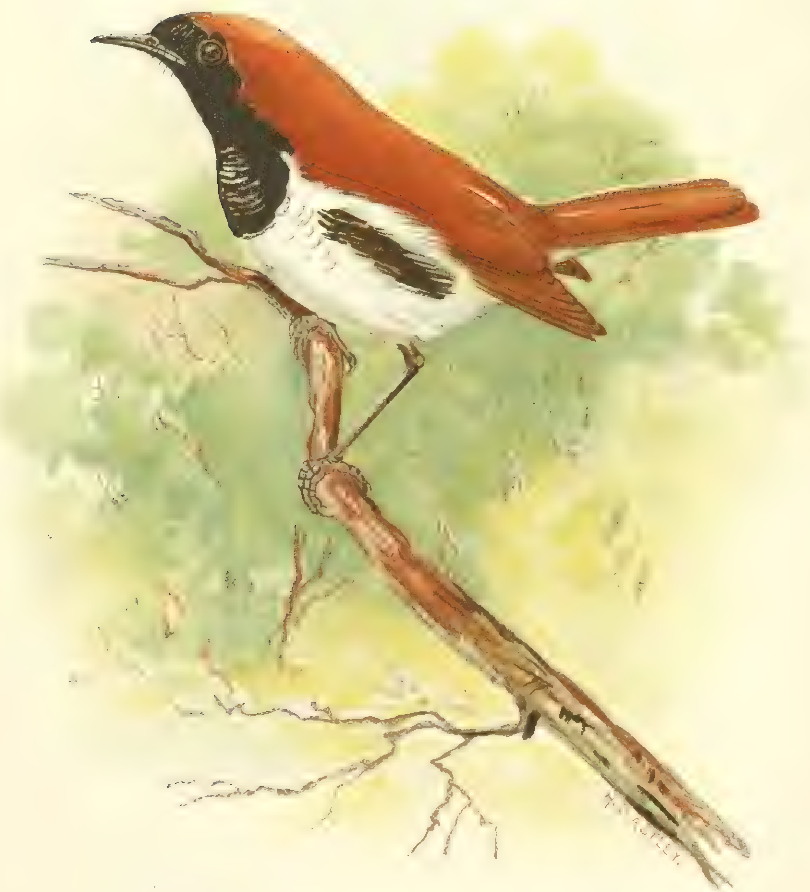
WHITE JAVA SPARROW ♂. (Chas. H. Robinson, Grosmont, R.S.O.) Cause of death, inflammation of lungs.

CUT-THROAT ♀. Death was due to constipation. If recognised early, during life, this constipation might have been overcome by a drop or two of castor oil.

Answered by post.- Miss E. Marjorie Hincks.

Erratum: -Re P.M. Report on Woodlark on p. 30 of last issue, the words "stewsacre" should read *stavesacre.*

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



H.D Astley del

Huth.lith et imp.

THE LOO-CHOO (TEMMINCK'S) ROBIN.

Erithacus komadori.

From life by H.D.Astley, M.A., etc

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Loo-choo Robin.

(Erithacus komadori).

By Hubert D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Up to a certain period, little or nothing was known about this beautiful Robin, but in Mr. Seebohm's "Notes on the Birds of the Loo-choo Islands" [Ibis., 1887, p. 175] he writes:—

> "Mr. Pryer, or to be strictly accurate, his friend Mr. Namiye, has "solved the mystery of the so-called "Corean Robin." It appears after "all that this bird, as remarkable for the gaiety of its plumage as for the "melody of its song, does not come from Corea. In Japan it is only "known as a very expensive cage-bird, but about twenty miles from the "town of Shiuri, on the largest of the Loo-choo Islands, and on the "Island of Amami, Oho-Shima, it is a common species. As Mr. Jouy saw "no trace of this bird during his three years' residence in Corea, it should "for the future be called the Loo-choo Robin."

[Let us note the latter sentence!—H. D. A.]

Again, in the "Ibis," 1888, p. 233, Mr. Seebohm writing on the subject of *Erithacus namiyei*, says:—

> "It is very difficult to say whether the bird described by Dr. "Stejneger is a state of plumage of *E. komadori*, or a local race of that "curious bird. I only know of three examples of *E. komadori* in Europe "—the male and female in the Leyden Museum, and a male (a cage-bird "from Japan) in my own collection, which agrees with the type, and not "with Dr. Stejneger's description."

I *believe* there are two skins of this Robin in the London Natural History Museum. Mr. Seebohm, when he speaks of a cage-bird from Japan, of course means its skin, and not a living bird.

To me, I fancy, falls the honour of possessing probably the only living one in Europe, thanks to the saleable price put upon it by its late owner, Mr. Ezra, at the L.C.B.A. Show in November, 1910, at the Horticultural Hall, Westminster.

Mr. Collingwood Ingram saw living individuals in cages in Japan ["Avicultural Magazine," June, 1910], and was greatly attracted by their beauty, writing of them as coming first in charm of any species that he found in the bird shops.

And no wonder!

My bird is most fearless, a true relative of our British Robin, of the same size and style. Except for the elongated patch of black which runs along the white flanks, his colours are distributed in the same fashion, but where our home bird is olive-brown above, his cousin from the Loo-choo Islands is flaming burnt-sienna, and where our bird is brick-red, the other is shining black, with little flicks of white on the chest.

In the "Ibis," at any rate, *Erithacus komadori,* is never styled Temminck's Robin, as my bird was in the catalogue of the L.C.B.A. Show, and I should say that it would be advisable to maintain the name given by Mr. Seebohm, namely the Loo-choo Robin.

Personally I consider it a pity to call birds by the names of persons, if it can be avoided, though in cases of men who have discovered them in their native habitations, it is different. The Robin from Loo-choo, conveys much more than to speak of Temminck's Robin. I have a Temminck's Himalayan Whistling Thrush, and if I possessed other species named after that naturalist, visitors to my collection might and would become confused: but no doubt in some cases it is unavoidable.

Of making of names there is no end.

Now my Loo-choo Robin is a charming songster, and his song reminds me at moments very strongly of that of the Hermit Thrush of North America. Birds' songs are almost impossible to describe, but I would try to do so by saying that it is one of those that dip up and down, notes, too, that are given forth suddenly, and sometimes end equally so, after the style of a British Robin. A powerful song for the size of the bird, sometimes exceedingly sweet, at others metallic accompaniments introduced, as if a flute and guitar were duetting! But, as I say, the similitude to the song of the little Hermit cousin, is unmistakable, although the Robin's is superior.

I can set my Robin singing at any moment by rustling a piece of tissue paper. Up goes his tail, and he commences by uttering a call note closely resembling the p-r-r-r of a Nightingale, but without the opening whistle of the latter bird. He will hop backwards and forwards in his cage, flicking his wings with a rapid vibratory movement, and then break into song.

Nearly every morning he has an outing in my bedroom, when he will, on finding his reflection in anything made of metal, stand opposite, uttering sharp needle-like squeaks, at which moments he opens his mouth as wide as any *primo tenore*.

On dull days, when he hops on the floor, he is extremely difficult to see if overshadowed by any piece of furniture, and I can well imagine that amongst dead leaves he would be quite invisible.

Flitting lightly about the room, he perches here, there, and everywhere, and one of his favourite posts is on the tines of the horns of a stuffed head of a red deer. It was when he was there that I sketched him for the picture which accompanies these notes, and the attitude is very characteristic with the tail elevated. It is moved up and down not very rapidly, but at moments it is held in the position portrayed for perhaps half a minute. Charmingly confiding as he is, I have no difficulty in making him return to his cage, which is open on all sides, with wooden bars. When I hold it up, the open door close to him, he will sometimes sit perfectly still, contemplating the interior of his abode, and then suddenly break into song. After a moment, even if there is no food as yet within, he will hop inside to be carried away to be given his breakfast. And what a bird for bathing! However cold the weather, in he goes in true Robin style. Probably the Loo-choo Robin could not easily withstand the climate of an English winter in an outdoor aviary, for Mr. Seebohm writes as follows: ["Ibis," 1887, p. 173].

> "The Loo-choo, Liu-kiu, or Ryu-kyu Islands lie between Japan and "Formosa, and enjoy a climate of remarkable equability. The summer is "not too hot to permit the growth of wheat, and the winter is not too "cold for the cultivation of sugar-cane and pine-apples. From an ornitho-"logical point of view these islands are said to rival Heligoland as a sta-"tion where migration may be seen on an extended scale."

In conclusion I might add that the female of *Erithacus komadori* is said to lack the black and white underparts of her mate, and to be generally duller in colouring. How interesting if one could secure a pair of these very charming and lovely birds, and succeed in breeding the species in captivity. If only pigs could fly!!

Since writing the above I have had nearly three months longer experience of my charming pet. He sings most *beautifully* in the early morning, just at dawn.

His song is loud and ringing in quality, composed of separate stanzas, of which there seem a great variety, divided by regular pauses of four or five seconds between each.

It is only when he sings *sotto voce* that the tones are at all metallic—the notes are even more varied than our British Robin's, and more rapidly uttered—there is more energy in them.

For the size of the bird the song is very loud, and I have never heard a more charming songster, for his notes are so wild and buoyant.

He sits on the front of my bed, or on a chair, and sings splendidly.

Notes on the Pintail Nonpareil.

(Erythrura prasina).

BY H. V. JOHNSON.

In the aviary this beautiful bird has always been a great favourite of mine, and as there appears to be very few notes about them. I hope these may be helpful to some of our members. Our Editor asks for some notes on the commoner birds for the benefit of new members. I am not quite sure if you could call the Pintail a common bird, but at all events it is a cheap bird, so I conclude it is also common, also it is remarkably beautiful, as the following description will show. Last summer there were a lot of these birds on the market, at a very low figure. I obtained five examples. Other members must have obtained some—I wish they would give their experiences for the benefit of others. A beginner in aviculture passing a dealer's shop and seeing these birds for the first time, would probably be charmed with their appearance. The birds appear lively, closely feathered, and their price being so reasonable, the novice would probably obtain a pair or two for his or her own collection, and more than probably would be very disappointed and surprised to find them dead in a day or two. I was! Last summer (September 8th), I received one pair of above birds. They were young birds but seemed to be quite healthy, these I placed in a cage in my outdoor aviary and fed on a mixture of the following seeds: Canary, millet, whole oats, and Paddy rice; a little of all was eaten. The next day the cock died: cause of death unknown. The same day I turned the hen into the aviary; she has developed into a splendid bird, and although December was an abominable month, by the turn of the new year she had finished moulting and was in splendid feather and condition, in fact never ailed anything. In the aviary my one and only is very lively and bathes frequently. Not being able to obtain Paddy rice locally I substituted whole oats, but even when I supply Paddy rice my bird prefers canary seed. These birds, if not diseased when obtained, are I consider, quite hardy judging from my own specimen. This concludes my notes on the Pintail Nonpareil as an aviary bird.

CAGE LIFE: A month after I obtained the above pair I purchased three more specimens, in the hope of making two complete pairs, but the season being well advanced (October 4th) I turned above into a large cage indoors. This time the birds were adults, very lively and tight as wax in plumage, but rather wild. As they appeared to be so healthy I naturally expected them to live, but it was not to be, and they were all dead by October 6th. Cause of death apparently unaccountable. I carefully observed these birds when feeding, and noticed they hadn't much strength to crack their seed, this applies chiefly to whole oats and Paddy rice. In the event of my obtaining more of these birds I feel inclined to give crushed oats and also to soak the Paddy Rice. When sleeping, these birds made a slight noise as if in pain, and I have come to the conclusion that the cause of their death and the weakness of the beak, is the result of a partial stoppage by some growth in the throat, which eventually chokes the bird. A beautiful bird like the Pintail Nonpareil is in my opinion an acquisition to anyone, and I am surprised more information on it is not available. Take for example the "Gouldian Finch"—a bird costing considerably more than the Pintail Nonpareil—of this much has been written. Of course they are in a way very beautiful, but from an artistic point of view they are not to be compared with the Pintail Nonpareil; the Gouldian's colour areas are very bright and crude, looking as if put on with a brush, without blending. The harmony of the Pintail Nonpareil is perfect. Ought not the post mortem examinations to help us to cater for these birds? Do they? I have been given to understand the Pintail Nonpareil comes from the same district as the Java Sparrow, and if this is so, one would naturally expect them to be quite hardy. The Java Sparrow, also called Rice Bird, will eat oats and Paddy rice like the Pintail and there is also a strong similarity in their shape, the Java having a fairly pointed tail, the head and shape of beak being identical to that of the Pintail, of course on a larger scale. When there is a strong light on my Pintail Nonpareil there is a rosy bloom on the lower part of the abdomen, similar to that on the Java Sparrow. If this surmising is correct it seems to me one could naturally conclude that the Pintail Nonpareil is also a Rice Bird or is closely related to them and should be equally hardy. Has the way these birds are imported anything to do with their short lives. If so, this ought to be a matter between the bird dealers and the actual catchers. As before mentioned, if healthy when obtained, I consider these birds quite hardy, but hope other aviculturists will give their experience for the benefit of others.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 46.

Turtur semitorquatus. HALF-COLLARED DOVE.

Range. Ethiopian region generally. *(H.L.)*

The "Black Pigeons," as these birds are commonly called here, are very plentiful everywhere from about February to November, but during the other three months of the year they are comparatively scarce. During the groundnut season they feed largely on these nuts, which they swallow without cracking the shell,——their gizzards, I suppose, dissolving what their comparatively weak bills are unable to cope with. At other seasons they feed in the corn and rice fields, and when nothing else is obtainable, on the different berries and fruits of the bush. At the beginning of the rains largish flocks, travelling northward, appear in Bathurst about a week after the arrival of the migrating Green Pigeons, but at other times they are strictly resident birds. They are most regular in their habits, in certain places one is practically sure of finding them at any particular hour, while morning and evening they go to drink often in immense flocks at various favourite places, and on these occasions one notices how quick they are, in comparison with other Doves, in satisfying their thirst. The bird arrives, settles on a tree near by and surveys the surroundings; if all is quiet down he comes to the water, hovers for a moment before alighting and then settles and drinks his fill. In half a minute satisfied and away, there is no pottering about, taking a sip here and a sip there or moving from pool to pool, as the smaller Doves do. Another remarkable thing about their drinking habits is that they are apparently quite satisfied with (if not actually fond of) brackish water. At Kafuta there is a large Mangrove-fringed creek, where the water is quite brackish, to drink which the Black Pigeons come in large numbers every evening and give great sport with the gun as they come, flying their very best, over the tops of the Mangroves. I have noticed the same at other places near the mouth of the river where similar conditions prevail. They make the usual pigeon's nest, a slight structure of sticks, in small trees and lay two white eggs. Occasionally too the nest is placed (in districts where a particular kind of Dwarf Palm grows) in the cleft, where the leaf-stalk branches off from the trunk of one of these Palms about 8 or 10 feet from the ground; in such a position the eggs are merely laid in the cleft without any attempt at a nest at all. Their note may be very exactly rendered by the syllables, "Too-too: tutta-tut-too," and they also have a throaty chuckling call. The Mandingo boys translate the note into their language as "Lung-o-lung futa kiti (*repeated twice*), Talàta nongkong temfe," (in English, "Every day the court is sitting, every Tuesday, bang goes sixpence." This, they say is the cock scolding his wife for her extravagance, which is continually bringing him to the court. Native names are "Bita-fin" (Mandingo) and "Peget" (Joloff). Their flesh is excellent eating, especially in the groundnut season. We, who live in the Protectorate here, are certainly pretty good evidence against the old saying that it is impossible for a man to eat a pigeon every day for a month. With most of us very few days pass without our eating Pigeon in some form or other, and very good "chop" most of them make too. I like the small Ringneck Dove the best, and next the Black and the Green Pigeons (bracketed equal), but opinions differ as to their relative excellence, though all are agreed as to their goodness.

Description. Crown and head blue-grey; a half collar of black on neck; back dark grey; wing-coverts slaty, darker externally, quills dark brown with narrow pale edges; tail dark grey, almost black, all the feathers, except the two central ones, tipped with bluish white, the area of white increasing from within outwards. Sides of face and neck pale grey washed with purplish pink, chin almost white; rest of under surface slate-grey washed with pink on chest and sides and becoming bluer on the belly; under surface of wings pale grey. Iris hazel; eyelids and skin in front of eye dull crimson. Bill dark grey. Legs purplish red. Length 13 inches.

In young birds the upper parts are washed with brown and the feathers generally have broad pale edges.

From about April onwards a great many of the Black Pigeons one gets differ considerably from the above description of a typical example. These look distinctly paler, when seen on the wing than the ordinary bird, which the epithet "black" fits well. Their upper parts are much paler, almost a French grey, and their crowns are a bluer and brighter grey. The eyelids too are fuller and bright, not a dull crimson in colour. These, I suppose, are the oldest birds, as one frequently gets a bird in plumage intermediate between the light and dark phases.

T. vinaceus. RINGNECK TURTLE-DOVE.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Loango; North-east Africa *(H.L.)*

These are by far the commonest Doves in the Gambia and are found everywhere in large numbers,—on the cultivation round the towns and on the rice-fields often in flocks of hundreds, and in smaller parties in every clearing throughout the bush. In appearance they resemble a very dark variety of the common cage-dove; they have the same black neck-ring and are about the same size as that bird, and only differ in colour, which is vinous-brown, paler below, instead of the pale chocolate fawn of the cage variety.

Their Mandingo name is "Jettero" or "Jettero Puràh," ("Puràh" being the general Mandingo name for any Dove, as "Mpetah" is in Joloff), the name being derived from its note, which is trisyllabic, and supposed to resemble the word "Jettero." In some places the boys say the bird is always calling the doctor, "Doctor-oh, Doctor-oh."

T. senegalensis. SENEGAL TURTLE-DOVE.

Range. Africa generally, to Palestine. Socotra. *(H.L.)*

This species, though not quite so common as the preceding, is however very plentiful in the Gambia, where it is essentially a village bird and always tame and trustful. They frequent the compounds and clearings in the immediate vicinity of the villages feeding mainly on what they pick up in the yards, round the corn beating places and refuse heaps, getting their water from the wells and water-pots and nesting usually in the thatch of huts and "kwiangs" (grass-roofed shelters from the sun) or less commonly in shallow depressions in the forks of large trees in or close to a village. They have two distinct notes, one a coo, the other a sort of chuckle. Their Mandingo name is "Dumbokango-purah."

The Senegal Turtle is a rather smaller and slimmer bird than the Ringneck Dove and resembles more or less a bright coloured edition of the European Turtle Dove. Above, the plumage is greyish pink washed in places with chestnut, the flights are dull brown, coverts rufous internally, grey externally. Upper tail-coverts dark grey; in the tail the two central feathers are very dark grey, almost black, the others tipped with white; below, the white is more extensive. The chin, throat, and upper breast are vinous, round the sides and front of the neck is a collar of bifid black feathers tipped with reddish-mauve; the lower breast and sides are slaty-blue fading into white on the belly and under tail-coverts. The eyelids are bluish, the irides brown. Bill dark slate tinged with purplish, legs dull red. Length 10½ inches. In the young the colours are paler and the markings less distinct, the greater part of the plumage being more or less washed with pale brown.

To be continued.

Breeding White-eared and Red-whiskered Bulbuls, Shama, and Pekin Robin.

By Mrs. A. Mahon.

(Continued from p. 51).

The Red-whiskered Bulbul *(Otocompsa jocosa)*: This interesting species is equally well known as the Red-eared Bulbul, and like the White-ear, makes a delightful pet, becoming absolutely tame and fearless. The plumage is brown above and white below; the head and crest are black; the ear-coverts are white, with a narrow border beneath of black; a tuft of silky hair-like feathers lie over the ears. The inner webs of most of the quill and tail feathers are white. The sexes are very much alike, but the cock is slightly larger and slimmer than his mate, his bill is much more powerful than that of the hen.

First, I must give an account of my success in breeding this species, not unique, as our members, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker and Dr. Amsler both reared young birds last season. The details are so similar to those of the White-ear, that there is but little to relate.

They were the first to commence nesting operations and also the first to rear their young, for the White-ears failed with their first nest. They were fed exactly as *leucotis*, and two fine young birds were soon fending for themselves and their parents again nesting, though their male parent still assisted them a little.

Incubation lasted 12 to 14 days. The eggs are much like those of the common House Sparrow, pinkish-white in colour, lined, blotched, and spotted with purplish-brown. The clutch usually numbers three. Sometimes only two and occasionally four.

The Red-whiskers are excellent parents, very persevering, but not so good as the *leucotis*, who never ate a mealworm themselves, till they had fed their young, but the *jocosa* always satisfied their own hunger first, then fed their babies, but as they usually reared their young, one cannot complain of them on that score.

They had four nests and reared two young on each occasion.

I was charmed with the tameness of these birds—a young one I had partly hand reared used to fly up and down stairs after me, and bathe on my fingers in my basin, when I was washing my hands; he used also to run up and down the table at dinner among the silver and dessert for bread pills, and having secured one would be off to the clock or curtain to enjoy his repast. He would sit for half an hour at a time on my left wrist while I wrote letters, singing softly, looking into my face the while. His end was tragic—he was killed by another pair of Bulbuls!

[Mr. W. E. Teschemaker informs me that several pairs of this species will nest together in the same aviary.—Ed.]

To be Continued.

Foreign Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

(Continued from page 361, *Vol. I., N.S.)*

Chapter III.—Sub-family EUPHONIINÆ—Section III.

This section, consisting of *E. violacea* and its allies was commenced on page 359 of Vol. I. N.S., with *E. violacea,* and the following heading was omitted:

Cap yellow, and undersurface of body wholly yellow.

Also on same page (Vol. 1, p. 359), Chapter II, should be Chapter III.

Diet: Soft food, ripe fruit, milk sop, and an occasional mealworm for such individuals as care for them—full details as to diet and treatment for the *Euphoniinæ* was given in Vol. I., N.S., p.p. 137-8.

STEEL BLUE EUPHONIA (*E. hirundinacea*).

I cannot trace any instance of living specimens having reached this country—it is therefore only necessary to give a description.

ADULT MALE: Upper surface bluish-black; crown yellow, but not extending to the nape; undersurface of body bright yellow; bill black; legs and feet dark-brown. Total length 4 inches, tail $1\frac{3}{8}$.

FEMALE: Upper surface light olive-green; under surface greyish-white, washed on the chin; sides of breast, abdomen, and vent, with pale yellowish-green.

HABITAT: According to the B.M. Cat. it is distributed over Southern Mexico and Central America to Costa Rica.
E. gnatho.

I have not attempted to give this species a popular name as it is very doubtful if it is entitled to specific rank. It is a replica of *hirundinacea,* but has a larger and stouter bill. It is a native of Costa Rica.

THICK-BILLED *(E. laniirostris):* This species has been on view in the Small Birds' House at the London Zoo, and a few other specimens have leaked through, and so far as I have been able to observe it, its demeanour and general characteristics appear to be identical with those of the well known Violet Euphonia *(E. violacea),* it only remains therefore to give its description.

Adult male: Upper surface lustrous blue-black; crown yellow, extending to the nape and rounded off behind; under surface of body bright yellow; bill, legs and feet blackish-brown. Total length 4 inches, tail $1\frac{1}{2}$

Female: Upper surface olive-green; under surface yellowish-green, much brighter on the middle of abdomen and ventral region.

"Habitat : Veragua, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Upper Amazonia, Peru, and Bolivia. Occasional in Costa Rica, where *E. hirundinacea* is the prevalent species."—(B.M.C. Vol.XI.)

This species may be distinguished by the shape and extent of the yellow on the crown.

hirundinacea: Yellow crown terminating at eyes and almost straight from eye to eye.

laniirostris: Yellow crown terminating at nape and the hind portion quite round—These features appear to be fairly constant in quite a number of skins.

Violet and Yellow Euphonia *(E. hypoxantha):* A beautiful species which is, I believe, still unknown to English aviculture. Its habitat is W. Ecuador and N.W. Peru.

Adult male: Upper surface rich violet-blue; crown yellow, extending beyond the nape where it widens out; under surface rich yellow; bill, legs and feet brownish-black. Total length 4 inches, tail $1\frac{3}{8}$.

Female: Not yet known, but doubtless an olive-green bird above and yellowish-green beneath..

Black-tailed Euphonia *(E. melanura):* Not yet known to English aviculture.

Adult male: Violaceous-blue above and rich golden-yellow beneath; underside of tail black. Total length 4 inches, tail 1 and one-third.

The female is olive-green above, and yellowish-green beneath, much brighter in the middle of abdomen.

Their range is Upper Amazonia and Colombia (B.M.C.)

Section IV: Entire upper surface and throat shining black.

Rufous-vented Euphonia *(E. rufiventris):* Also unknown to English aviculture.

Adult male: Upper surface lustrous purplish-black, or a better description would be black, with shining purplish reflections, according to the angle at which the light strikes the plumage; throat and extending to the chest black with purplish reflections; abdomen orange, strongly washed with rufous; underside of tail black; bill blackish with a steely sheen; legs and feet brownish-black. Total length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tail 1 and 1/3.

The female is olive-green above, very dark on the nape and ashy-olive below, washed with yellowish on the sides of neck, breast, and flanks; ventral region rufous.

Habitat: Upper Amazonia and Rio Negro (B.M.C.).

YELLOW-BANDED EUPHONIA *(E. vittata):* The trivial name I have given this species, forms perhaps the least distinctive feature of its beautiful plumage, viz., a slight yellow bar or band across the forehead, but it is distinctive in being the only yellow band the bird possesses.

Unknown to English aviculture.

I have examined the Museum skin, but in this case I prefer quoting from their catalogue in full:

> "Above shining purplish black, with a slight yellow bar across the "forehead; below, throat and foreneck bluish-black; abdomen deep "orange, more yellowish on the sides and breast and flanks; tail beneath "black, with a small oval white spot on the inner web of the outer fea- "ther; under wing-coverts and inner webs of wing-feathers white. Whole "length 4·2 inches, wing 2·4, tail 1·4.
>
> "HABITAT: Brazil."
>
> "I have never yet met with a second specimen of this apparently "distinct species, which in general resembles *E. rufiventris*, but is at once "distinguishable by the narrow frontal band and white spots on the outer "tail-feathers (B.M.C., Vol. XI.)

To be continued.

Freely Imported Species and their Treatment.

By J. EASTON SCOTT, M.A., M.B.

WAXBILLS: The Waxbills comprise a fairly large family, and number amongst their members some of the most charming birds, both for the beginner, and for the experienced aviculturist. They are eminently suited for being kept in cages, for they very quickly adapt themselves to confined surroundings, and settle down without that air of discontent that is so evident in many birds kept under the conditions of cage life; nor do they become dull and listless, but, on the contrary, they seem to retain all their vivacity and attractive demeanour. At the same time, though this may be true, there is no doubt that if one can give them comparative freedom in a large outside aviary, the interest in keeping them is greatly enhanced.

Perhaps no birds are more freely imported than many members of the Waxbill group, and for this reason very few of us have begun bird-keeping without very soon possessing one or more species of the family. It is often said that they are very delicate birds, and consequently they are frequently considered short lived, and difficult to keep. But this idea should be qualified, for two reasons: First, because they are so easily obtained they often fall into the hands of the novice, who simply through lack of experience may himself be the cause of many of his birds dying. Anyone who looks back upon his early losses will more frequently have to blame his own ignorance, than the delicateness of his stock; and in the second place these birds are often to be found crowded by the hundred into small cages, in the dealers' shops, where much is to be desired both in the matter of cleanliness and fresh air, and birds obtained from such sources are frequently infected with disease before they are bought.

But given healthy birds and suitable environment, these birds compare very favourably both in hardiness and longevity, with many so called stronger birds.

As with almost all other birds, the difficulties in keeping them are chiefly at the beginning, when the birds are newly imported, for though they live largely on a diet of Canary and millet seed when once acclimatised, we must remember that in a state of nature they are largely insectivorous, and it is this difficulty of suddenly restricting them to a hard dry food, which accounts for many deaths among newly imported birds.

If they can be kept in a large aviary out of doors, they very easily get the insect food they want; but if this cannot be done, it is well to supply some form of insectivorous food. It is one of the good reasons for keeping a mixed aviary, that thereby all the birds get a much greater choice of food, and though the seed-eaters may not take much of the soft foods or fruit, yet they will often be found to pick it over, and take out such tit-bits as they like. It is most interesting to watch what varied tastes the small seed-eating Finches have, and how often they will visit the soft food dishes or fruit trays.

This desire for insect food is, of course, especially evident during breeding operations, and if such things as mealworms are given out regularly, it is extraordinary how bold and insistent the birds become. So far as my own observations have gone, the young are fed to a large extent on millet seed which is regurgitated by the parents, but I must add that they have had free access to various soft foods, and mealworms have been supplied liberally, and the failures in rearing mostly occurred at a time when I did not myself realise the necessity for an abundant supply of the soft and insect foods.

When one gives one's own methods and experiences in keeping any species of birds, it is not with the object of implying that they are always the most correct, or that they even coincide with the opinion of the majority of bird keepers, but in a paper such as this, it is interesting to give one's personal experiences, both from the point of view of success and failure.

So far, the weather during this winter has been about as unsuitable for bird-keeping as any weather could be, but in spite of rain, snow, frost and wind all my Waxbills have been out of doors all the time (Surrey), and out of a considerable number, the losses have been very few, and compare very favourably with the days in the past, when these birds were brought indoors and caged during the winter months.

The species thus treated include the Grey, Orange-cheeked, Violet-eared, Golden-breasted (Zebra) and St. Helena Waxbills; Fire finch, Cordon Bleu and Scarlet and Green Avadavats. Frequently for several mornings in succession I have had to break the ice in their drinking fountains, both in the shed and flight, and yet in spite of the cold, these birds have kept fit and vigorous. They are always driven into the shelter shed before dark (*i.e.* in winter), which shed I may mention, is large and roomy and light, so that they can get plenty of exercise when they are shut in, and it is double lined and quite draught-proof. It is also fitted with electric light, which is left on till well on in the evening, so that the birds can see to move about and feed—and thus the long night is shortened. There is no heating of any kind, and my impression is that if these birds have a roomy flight outside, and a shelter free from draught in which to spend the night, they care little about the weather. In summer the windows are all left open, and I find the majority of the birds prefer to sleep outside. Their favourite roosting places always seem to be the laurel bushes, where the broad leaves make splendid cover and act as umbrellas if it is wet. Inside the shed they have a choice of various nest boxes and coco-nut husks, but few of the Waxbills seem to use them.

I have few breeding results to record among my Waxbills, for last season. The Golden-breasted nested, and got the length of eggs, but did not hatch them out. Their choice of nesting place was a coco-nut husk. Green Avadavats have reached the stage of eggs several times, but only one bird has been hatched, and this they did not rear. A pair of Cordon Bleus built a nest of hay and moss, lined with feathers, in a laurel bush, and three young were hatched out. Only one however, was fully reared. The further history of that family is somewhat interesting. The hen parent died, soon after the young bird was on the wing—but the cock bird continued to feed it until it could look after itself. It turned out to be a hen, and now the father has paired up with it, and at the time of writing (February 20th), they are engaged in incubating a clutch of three eggs, each faithfully taking a turn—a condition of things to shock our code of morals, but "autres *animaux*, autres mœurs" to pervert a well-known French phrase! The nest they have made this time is composed chiefly of some kind of fibrous root, wedged in between a coco-nut husk and the wall of the shed, and lined with a few feathers. Nesting materials have been purposely witheld thus early in the season.

Perhaps the most interesting breeding result among the Waxbills last year was the successful rearing of four Golden-breasted x Scarlet Avadavat hybrids. These were bred in August, and the nest was built in a laurel bush, of hay and feathers, and was semi-domed. The back was well sheltered by leaves, but during a spell of wet days, two feathers were arranged in front to run off the wet, which they did most effectively. Both birds shared the duties of incubation. The eggs were quite white, and the clutch of four were all duly hatched out and the young birds fully reared. It was curious that these birds should pair, as each could have chosen a mate of its own species. When the young left the nest they were very unassuming little birds—quite a dull brown in general colouring with slightly lighter brown on the breast. The wings were barred with brownish-yellow markings, and the bill was black. They now more closely resemble the Avadavat than the Golden-breast, both in general colouring, and in size. The cock, at its present stage of development, is almost indistinguishable from a cock Avadavat out of colour. The back and wings are a dark greenish-brown, the latter with white spots. Tail black, with the two outer feathers edged with white. The upper tail coverts are a rich brownish-red, with several white spots. The breast, abdomen and vent are a dull yellow, and the flanks shew indistinct zebra markings. At present the throat and cheeks show signs of the crimson marking of the Avadavat, but the area round the eye is darker. The beak is red, but the upper mandible still has a dark median line. The female birds are somewhat similar to the cock in general colouration, but the wing spots are absent, and the tail coverts are a much duller red, and also lack the white spots. The breast and abdomen are little more than a dullish-grey.

The above description can scarcely be said to be satisfactory, as the birds are evidently in a sort of transition stage of their colour change. Considering the parentage of these hybrids it would be interesting to see whether it would be possible to breed from them.

British Birds at the Crystal Palace Show.

By G. E. Weston.

It seemed to be the general opinion that the British Bird section lacked nothing in the matter of interest by comparison with the shows of previous years. And in this opinion as a whole I concur.

It is a great temptation of the "old stager" to call up visions of the "glorious past" to the detriment—inevitable detriment, one might almost say—of present-day institutions. Even bird shows are not exempt from this "law"; and, needless to say, I am undergoing *my* temptation right now. The Goldfinches—first favourites with all who love a combination of beauty and daintiness and who can forgive mannerisms by turns charmingly simple and annoyingly inexplicable—mustered in satisfactory numbers (46) but I saw none amongst them which roused in me the hunger, of possession. In short, I failed to discover a "champion of champions" that could have laid low the champions I have seen in the past.

What's that? Yes; quite right—in the misty past I did once win a first myself in the Goldfinch class. But I was not thinking of my own bird—really I wasn't. Still, I feel that readers won't believe me; so I'll steer clear of the olden times.

The Goldfinches were a nice lot, anyway, and the same may be said of the Bullfinches, both cocks and hens. The cock class once again evidenced the difficulty experienced by even the cream of the house-moulted specimens in defeating a field-moulted rival which excels in those "points" which go to make up the fancier's ideal. The 2nd prize Bullfinch (Mr. G. Lawrence) was a gem in every way; yet he had to "strike his colours" (in more senses than one) to a bird in field-plumage (Mr. Longden) and a grand example of the species, too.

The season 1910—1911 has had its uncommon aspects; for instance, Mealy Redpolls have been exceptionally plentiful and Waxwings readily obtainable. It has been also a rare year for Lesser Redpolls, Greenfinches, and Linnets, fine classes being the rule up and down the country. At the Palace, however, by some strange means the Linnet class turned out to be the weakest seen for many years, and may even have been the smallest on record.

In certain of the other classes, too, the entry can only be described as meagre. Possibly this is due to the fact that at this late period of the season owners can to a certain extent gauge the chances of their exhibits, and so refrain from entering except where they think the possibility of a prize exists. But "form" on the show-bench is often as little reliable a guide to the placings as is "form" on the turf. Thus the winning Mealy Redpoll at the Scottish National (Edinburgh) Show, in a record class of fifty, here failed to get even a card; and the same fate befel the winning colour-fed Greenfinch. The second prize Yellow-hammer was down to "highly commended," and the winning Twite 4th, beaten by a bird which, I believe, stood cardless behind it at the great Scottish event. Thus it seems clear that exhibitors ought never to take defeat too much to heart—take, instead, another judge's opinion as to the merits of their birds. Mr. Allen Silver went very strongly for perfection of plumage and high condition.

An incident was the dismissal of a protest against a Yellowhammer for alleged trimmed head-markings (the clearing of the centre of the V); a happy ending for the exhibitor, and a curious one by reason of this identical bird having been disqualified on the same allegation at the Scottish National Show.

Some representatives of species which occasionally visit England had a cold time of it, a Crested Lark *(Galerita cristata)* a very rare and interesting bird, a Black-headed Bunting *(E melanocephala)*, and a Meadow Bunting, failing to attract cards from the judges.

In the insectivorous section, I noticed several very good birds obviously handicapped through being staged in cages too small for them—Blackbirds, Starlings and Thrushes in particular require a reasonable amount of space in which to display their graces of shape and carriage. In each of the above-mentioned classes, new faces were seen behind the coveted first prize tickets. The winning Song Thrush proved that even the most charming representative of the gentler sex is liable to be beaten should an Adonis of the sterner sex put in an appearance. "Border Queen" (2nd prize for Mr. Bruce) has proved her merit by winning three firsts at the Palace, but to-day just succumbed to a splendid male staged by Mr. Fletcher. The winner in the Nightingale class I thought a very fine example of the species, and it was beautifully shown by the Hon. Mrs. Bourke.

Mr. Frostick's justly celebrated Dartford Warbler scored easily in the class for small resident species and annexed the Championship Diploma for the best British bird. The perfect condition in which this dainty little creature has appeared at various shows this season does infinite credit to Mr. Frostick and his methods of feeding and management. (A drawing of this bird by Mr. Goodchild and an article from the pen of its owner were published in *Bird Notes,* March, 1910). I hope Mr. Frostick will succeed in breeding the Dartford Warbler in captivity, which I understand is one of his ambitions. Mr. May's came second with an absolutely perfect Golden Crested Wren. This Gold Crest has been house-moulted five times by its owner, who is a past-master in the art of managing delicate insectivorous birds, and it has regularly been either first or second at the Palace Show. Yet there are people who hold that bird-keeping is necessarily and essentially "cruel"!

In the class for small migratory birds, Mr. May's took both 1st and 2nd prizes, one of the best Wheatears seen for several seasons leading the way, with a beautiful and perfect Yellow Wagtail as runner-up. A fine Great Grey Shrike scored for Mr. J. M. Walsh, in the class for the larger insectivorous species. It was claimed by a young Metropolitan enthusiast at £6, but unfortunately sickened and died during the course of the show. Very hard lines. A high price (£12 10s.) was also cheerfully paid by a bird-lover from Huddersfield for the Dartford Warbler. Many other British Birds, too, changed ownership, the most notable sales being, Lesser Redpoll (1st) £3 3s., Siskin (1st) £4 10s. 6d. and Song Thrush (1st) £2 5s., while Bullfinches, Goldfinches, Linnets, etc., round aboud £2 in price were quickly snapped up. I heard, too, on excellent authority, that for the fourth prize Waxwing no less a sum than £13 was paid by its present owner, who now also numbers the Dartford Warbler amongst his stock.

The rare-featherd birds are always interesting, and this year the class was an excellent one, though containing nothing absolutely novel, with one possible exception. The winner was a really beautiful Silver Starling, and an exceedingly pretty, almost White Goldfinch stood second. The third prize bird, a fine White Song Thrush enjoyed several hours of freedom on the Monday, being eventually captured in the Royal Box overlooking the show-room by a lady visitor. Fourth came an almost clear White Bullfinch, a very taking exhibit; and extra fourth the "possible exception" noted above, a Black Hawfinch. This bird is a curious creature, a little under the normal size, and almost solid black throughout. It was steady and in nice condition. Amongst the "also rans" figured Pied and White Blackbirds, a Pied Redpoll, Linnet, and House-Sparrow, a Black Bullfinch, Cinnamon and Silver Greenfinches, a Fawn Chaffinch, and another almost White Goldfinch.

In conclusion, I may say that I have endeavoured to touch only upon points which are of general interest (vide the instructions of our esteemed Editor), and I trust I have fulfilled my mission.

Book Notices and Reviews.

CANARIES, HYBRIDS, AND BRITISH BIRDS IN CAGE AND AVIARY. Cassell & Co. In Monthly Parts, 7d. net.

Part XII. The chapter on "The Cinnamon Canary" is completed, and one on the "Crested Canary" is commenced, the latter containing the experiences of many well-known and successful breeders. The part contains figures in the text of various types of Crests, and there is a good coloured frontispiece figuring the Yellow Piebald and Clear Buff Scotch Fancy and Clear Yellow Belgian Canaries.

Several Reviews unavoidably held over till next issue.

Editorial.

BUDGERIGARS AT LIBERTY: Our esteemed member, Dr. P. Gosse, of Beaulieu, Hants, has liberated his small flock of Budgerigars, the following extract is from a private letter:

> "I have let all my fifteen Budgerigars out. They look "charming flying about, rather like Swallows. They come home "to roost at nights. I saw a large Hawk after one, but the Hawk "did not stand a chance."

The incident of the Hawk amply demonstrates the lightning-like flight of the Budgerigars, of which our conception is, I fear very dim, from our aviary experience of the species. There is a strong probability that the birds will remain in the garden, and breed as soon as the grass begins to seed. If they can only be induced to stay they will form a handsome feature of our member's well wooded garden.

The following notes, reprinted from the "Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society," will we are assured prove of general interest.

INTELLIGENCE DISPLAYED BY SHORT-BILLED MINIVET (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*) when their nests are in danger

"The following extracts from my journal may, perhaps, be "of some interest to ornithologists.

"12th April, 1907.—To-day's result was . . . . . . and "a nest of the short-billed Minivet *(P. brevirostris)* containing "four young partly fledged.

"The nest was placed on the upper surface of a horizontal "branch of a medium Himalayan Cedar *(C. decdara),* at a height "of 30 feet from the ground, and was well concealed." It was "only discovered by watching the movements of the parent birds " . . . . . . I was greatly disappointed at not having found the "nest, before it contained the eggs, but to make up for the loss, I "had the good fortune of being the spectator of the following "incident, which clearly demonstrates the sagacity of birds.

"When my man had climbed up the tree close to the "nest, the parent birds (as I afterwards discovered them to be) "began to behave in a most singular manner. They would turn "their tails inwards between their legs, spread out their wings, and "flutter down from a neighbouring tree on to the ground, just as "young birds, which could scarcely fly, would do. I thought at "first that these birds were the young ones from some other nest "which may be close by, and began chasing them about in order "to catch them. As soon as I got close to one of them, it would "steady itself, and fly to the branch of a neighbouring tree, only "to repeat the performance again. After watching them for some "time, and observing them closely, I discovered to my astonishment "that they were the parent birds! Their object in behaving in "this extraordinary manner apparently was to entice us away "from the spot by trying to delude us into the belief (as they undoubtedly did at first), that they were the young birds from the "nest.

"I did not disturb the nest that day, but when I visited the "spot again a week later, the young ones were quite fledged "and flew off the nest long before my climber had got up to it. "The old birds repeated the performance mentioned above. Of "course I was wiser this time.

"31st May, 1908.—I had another interesting experience "with these birds to-day, exactly similar to the one related above.

"On our way back home after a long ramble, we were "passing along a hill covered with Himalayan Cedars, and hearing "a twittering quite close to us, I suspected that there was a nest "and accordingly began to search the trees, but could not locate it "anywhere. That there was a nest I was certain, for the old birds "had something in their months, and after flying a few yards off "would return to a particular tree (the one next to that in which "the nest was situated), and would fly off again. Determined to "find the nest, I ordered my man to climb each tree in turn, and "make a systematic search on all the branches. While he was "thus employed I examined some of the branches with a pair "of binoculars. After a fruitless search lasting over an hour and "a half, I decided to go home, and visit the spot on the following "day. We had just gathered up our guns and other things, and "on taking the 'last look,' I happened to spot the nest. It was "placed on the surface of a horizontal bough of a Cedar, about "25-30 feet from the ground. Its outline could only just be "seen from below. Needless to say, my climber was up the tree "like a monkey, and when he got close to the nest, the birds "(who apparently knew for certain by this time that their family "was in danger), became quite desperate, and began to behave "in exactly the same manner as previously related. The nest in "this case contained two young ones, fully fledged, both of them "flew off the nest as soon as my man got close to it" (J.B.N.H.S. "Vol. xx, No. 2.)

"P. T. L. DODSWORTH, F.Z.S.

THE SPOTTED MUNIA *(Uroloncha punctulata)* AND THE INDIAN RED MUNIA *(Sporæginthus amandava).*

"This afternoon, after a heavy shower of rain, termites started "to fly out of a hole near one of my aviaries. They flew straight "through the wire-netting, and whilst watching them, I noticed "some of the Spotted Munias* pick them off as they went through "and two or three of the Red Munias† caught them in the air "with their bills and devoured them whilst hovering. I can find no "note of any of these birds doing this before, and it seems to "be most interesting.‡ (J.B.N.H.S., Vol. xx., No. 2):

Laheri Sirai, 18th June, 1910.

"CHAS M. INGLIS."

*Spice or Nutmeg Finch. †Common Avadavat. ‡ Significant of the extent to which insect life plays a part in the "bill of fare" when wild.

THE MATURING OF BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS *(Agapornis nigrigenis).* From a recent letter received from our esteemed member, Rev. J. M. Paterson, it is apparent that this species becomes fully mature within the twelve months. He states that a pair of Black-cheeks which were hatched in either March or April, 1910, laid the first egg of a clutch on February 23rd, so that this pair has started nesting before they are twelve months old. This species appears to be very hardy, as

Mr. Paterson has more than one pair with eggs already, all the birds are in garden aviaries, their only shelter being an open fronted shed. Our esteemed member, Mr. Mathias, has bred them more or less all through the winter, some of the young being fully reared.

EARLY NESTING NOTES: Mr. Mathias has Diamond Finches with eggs, while Cuban Finches and Rufous-tailed Grassfinches are building. Dr. Gosse has also a pair of Bearded Tits showing signs of going to nest. Several members have Black-cheek Lovebirds, with eggs, and with others such as Zebra Finches and Cutthroats are incubating.

BIRD PROTECTION: A slip (petition) is enclosed in this issue, a letter also appeared in our last issue, upon this subject (see p.p. 61-62), a reference to this will make the position clear. It is hoped that all members who have not already signed the petition, will sign and return same to Mr. Allen Silver, 3, Gateley Road, Brixton, London, S.W., at their early convenience.

FISH DIET FOR INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS: In the February issue of the Avicultural Magazine, our esteemed member, Mr. R. E. Rattigan, records an interesting episode of captive bird-life. He had in a store-room adjoining his aviaries a glass aquarium containing minnows (originally provided for a now defunct Kingfisher). A Shama often followed him there (cupboard love), and on one occasion he noticed it perching on the edge of the aquarium regarding the fish with interest, soon he captured one, killed it with a few blows on the head and devoured it piecemeal with evident relish—so long as the supply lasted Mr. Shama got two or three each morning and he was quite adept at capturing them either from a deep or shallow vessel. We opine that fish in some form would constitute excellent addition to the menu of insectivorous, partially insectivorous and some frugivorous species, especially fresh water fish. In a state of nature undoubtedly many more of our indigenous species so indulge than is generally supposed, The writer never tried his Shamas with living fish, but well remembers that his esteemed friend and fellow member, Mr. E. W. Harper, when in Georgetown, British Guiana, fed his Tanagers on fresh water shrimps and found them very keen on such diet. There are many other species, such as Dhyals and the

Water Robins (Redstarts) which would be equally keen on small fish, shrimps, and other small fry from fresh water. Undoubtedly the roes of fish, either fresh or preserved, would prove a wholesome addition to the menu of many species, and also in a preserved form prove a valuable item of the insectile mixture.

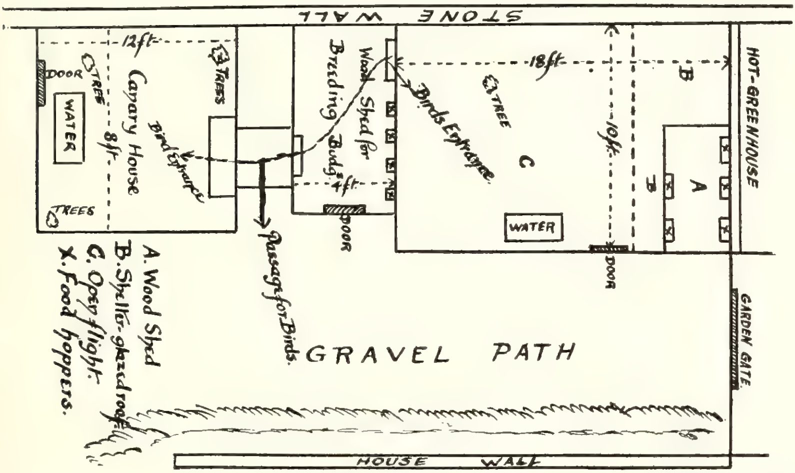
THE AVIARIES AT THE TRELOAR CRIPPLES HOME AND COLLEGE: It has been the writer's privilege to have a part in the re-arranging and re-fitting of these roomy aviaries, of which we shall hope to have a photo-reproduction in a near issue. The Hon. Editor will be glad to hear from any Member willing to donate a pair or more birds, towards the stocking of same. Any of the following would be specially welcome: Budgerigars, Red-rump, Bourke, or Rosella Parrakeets; Black-cheeked, Madagascar and Blue-winged Love-birds; Zebra, Ribbon, Cuba, Jacarini, Bib and Red-headed Finches; Avadavats, Green and Common; any species of Mannikins, Grassfinches, or Cardinals; Diamond or Passerine Doves, and Australian Crested Pigeons. The above are named as indicating character of stock required. The two aviaries are roomy and well arranged with plenty of natural cover etc., and it is hoped that many of our members will take a share in providing a little interest and pleasure for the crippled inmates of the above homes. The Hon. Editor will have much pleasure in arranging for the dispatch and reception of the birds, if intending donors will communicate with him.

ERRATUM: On page 49, line 7 from bottom, "Green Alexandra Parrakeet" should read *Queen Alexandra Parrakeet.*

Correspondence.

NOTES FROM A BEGINNER.

SIR, I thought some of our members would be interested to know that I have two male Scarlet Bishops, that have survived two hard winters in our bad climate. They passed through the moult the last two years successfully, eat well, and seem content and happy. I bought two pairs in October, 1909, but unfortunately the hens died soon after arrival. They are very timid, restless birds, do not seem to make friends with each other, and are constantly on the move. I did very well with Green Budgerigars last season, so much so that I gave several pairs away to friends. Also I did not do badly with my Canaries, but should have done even better, if I had found out earlier that a Red-capped Cardinal amused himself spring-cleaning Canaries' nests, as soon as the eggs were laid; however, several young ones were reared and are singing very lustily now. The Canaries seem to prefer to live outside in preference to a cold glass-house, which I have attached to the flight. My aviary is not very large but is comfortable, one end of the open flight being close up to a hot-house, with two lights over the end, next the hot-house. Then I have a wood shed, through which the birds can pass into a cold glass-house,* where the canaries build their nests in some dead bushes and dried sticks. The Canaries are very tame but the other birds do not seem to be as friendly as I should like. I have a White Java Sparrow (hen) who will insist on laying her eggs in other birds' nests; I found no less than 16 eggs inside a cocoa-nut with two little half-fledged Budgies trying to be happy under uncomfortable conditions. I am looking forward to the spring and summer, as it is a great pleasure to me to watch the birds and their pretty ways.


STONE WALL
12ft
DOOR
TREE
WATER
8ft
Canary House
TREES
Bird Entrance
TREES
Breeding Wood Shed for Budg.
4ft
DOOR
Birds Entrance
TREE
18ft
C
WATER
10ft
B
A
X
HOT-GREENHOUSE
DOOR
GARDEN GATE
Passage for Birds
GRAVEL PATH
HOUSE WALL
A. Wood Shed
B. Shelter-glazed roof
C. Open flight
X. Food hoppers.

(Miss) VENIE MAGGS.

Birstall, Yorks,
February 7th, 1911.

*The glass-house would answer better if the roof were covered with roofing felt over the glass, at any rate for two-thirds of its area; the sides of house would supply ample light.—Ed.

A BEGINNER'S NOTES.

Sir,—I have read with interest your article on Cutthroats in the January issue—I should be glad if you would state size and style of nest most suitafle, as there is evidently something wanting in my arrangements, as the following notes will indicate.

CUTTHROATS *(A. fasciata):* They started laying on December 5th, 1910, the nest receptacle being a small coco-nut shell, hanging in a cage containing sixteen other foreign birds. After sitting closely for some time they crushed the eggs. I then put them in a cage by themselves, with a nest-box 6in. x 4in., filled with hay. This nest they seemed to approve of, and by December 24th they had three more eggs. They incubated closely till January 22nd, when I found two crushed eggs and a dead bird, evidently also crushed.

I then put them back into the other cage again, and almost at once they began nesting again, making use of a small coco-nut shell and at present are busy incubating another clutch of three eggs.

Both birds are generally in the nest, and will allow no other birds near their domicile; intruders being quickly driven off by Mr. Cutthroat minus a portion of their plumage.

COCKATEELS *(Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ):* These also have nested, the hen laid her first egg on December 24th, 1910, in a box 9in. x 7in., partly filled with hay, in an open cage two feet long. For some time she sat on two eggs and then laid again, and I found her incubating four eggs, and as I could not tell the first clutch from the last I had to leave them all. However, neither proved good sitters, the eggs were very irregularly incubated and consequently none hatched out.

MADAGASCAR LOVEBIRDS *(Agapornis cana):* On December 26th, my pair started nesting, the hen laying her first egg on that day, six in all were laid on alternate days—none have hatched for a hen Yellow Budgerigar took a fancy to her nest, drove off the hen Madagascar and threw out the eggs, three of which contained fully formed chicks.

It was a great disappointment both to me and the birds, and they have seemed very dull since.

The male Madagascar was always in close attendance, but never entered the nest. Incubation commenced with the first egg. I have now moved the Budgerigars and hope they will nest again.

YELLOW BUDGERIGARS *(Melopsittacus undulatus: var. luteus).* These are now nesting and I hope there will be some result—incubation commenced with the third egg.

In June last I had one pair of Yellow Budgerigars; I now have 60 or more Foreign Finches, Pekin Robins etc., besides those named above.

I am now having an indoor avairy built that the small foreigners may get plenty of exercise.

(MISS) ALFREDA B. SMYTH.

The following reply has been sent:

Cutthroats like a large nesting receptacle—a box with a base 6 inches x 8 inches x 6 inches high is none too large—they also favour a full sized coco-nut husk, or a Hartz travelling cage. From the latter the fittings must be removed, and a couple of the bars cut away to give the birds ingress and egress.

Cockateels need a large husk, or a nest box with a concave bottom, which forms a slight hollow for the eggs to lie in, otherwise they roll about and get spoiled. They require no nesting material and the hay in the box evidently contributed to their failure to hatch out.

The Madagascar Lovebirds and Budgerigars will doubtless do better now they are separated. It is not always easy to make adequate arrangements in a cage, but there should be two nest receptacles for each pair of birds in any cage or aviary.

WESLEY T. PAGE.

FEATHER BITING.

Sir,—The following facts may interest Parrot keepers. I have two Senegals *(Pœocephalus senegalensis)* in a cage 3 feet x 1½. I noticed one afternoon that feather picking was going on. They are in my dining-room, so I see them every day. As the back of the head of one bird was picked and not the other, it was clear one was the culprit. I separated them, and the picker continued its bad habit. I hoped to stop it by turning it loose, but the weather was not suitable till to-day (March 1st), and last night it bit off all its flight feathers. Now I wish to remark that it was not irritation of skin. For it bit the feathers off, and bit them off the other bird. It was not depraved appetite, for it did not eat them. And as the cage was large enough for it to fly from perch to perch, and it had a breeding box and nesting material, and fresh apple boughs to bark, it could hardly have been boredom. It seems to have suddenly discovered that biting feathers in two was fascinating.

I have turned it into an aviary—unheated, but it must take the consequences of its own misdemeanours. But I have no hope of cure. As it does not pull the feathers out, but bites them off, it will have to stop soon for want of material.

A sweep in Cheltenham undertook to cure feather pickers. It was said he covered them with soot.

I think this case shows that sometimes people are a little too off-hand when they at once assume that feather picking is the result of wrong feeding. It may be the result of a too active brain.

F. G. DUTTON.

POISONOUS PLANTS.

Sir.—In my new Tanager and Sugar-bird Aviary I have a small fountain in each compartment. I told my gardener to have the basins surrounded with moss and small ferns. The moss used was *Lycapodium*—all went well for a few days, when two Superb

Tanagers were seen pulling at the moss and evidently eating it.

Shortly after this the Tanagers were very ill and scouring freely, the excrement being bright green—there was evidently considerable pain.

One Tanager died in about three hours, the other recovered and is now quite well.

I have never heard that *Lycapodium* was poisonous but, I cannot blame anything else.

It is a fortunate circumstance that the damage was not more extensive.

It would be very helpful if either a list of plants suitable for the purpose, or a list of known poisonous ones could be published for general use. E. J. BROOK.

We will arrange for such a list or lists to appear as early as possible.—Ed.

LIBRARY OF BIRD BOOKS.

Sir,—I think it would be a very great advantage to many members if the club had a library from which members could borrow. There are so many books on one branch or another of our hobby, that one would be plad to read and yet it is not worth while, or in many coses expedient to buy them; and in other cases one is unable to tell if the book is suitable to buy without first seeing it.

About 200 books would make an ample library for the present, and no doubt some member could be found who would give them house room and forward them as required.

Will others let us have their views on the subject?

Yours truly,

H. A. SOAMES.

[If taken up heartily, this should prove most useful and practical, and I certainly will assist with loan or gift of books. Ed.]

DOVES AND PIGEONS.

Sir,—From the various notes and accounts of aviaries, appearing from time to time in *Bird Notes,* it would appear that many species of foreign Doves and Pigeons are being kept in captivity.

I am sure it would be of general interest if those keeping the *Columbidæ,* would send in accounts of the species they keep, with breeding successes if any, and full details of treatment.

The group of Fruit Pigeons are beautiful and interesting, but are very seldom imported, and consequently costly, and only a few aviculturists have had the opportunity of studying them in captivity; will such describe their birds and give details of diet, etc.? Such would be greatly appreciated by their fellow members.

I have only kept a few species and have found them of much interest, and the soft colouring of many species is very varied, chaste, and beautiful.

If the species are not too closely related several pairs may be kept in one aviary.

I have kept at one time and another the following with varying success:

DOVES: Senegal Turtle, Diamond, Passerine, Peaceful, Zebra, and Tolpacoti. These lived principally on Canary and millet seeds, but I have seen them picking half-heartedly over the larger seed mixture provided for other birds in their enclosure, consisting of crushed oats, hemp, dari, rape, etc. They also had access to cuttlebone, rock salt, and green food, and I have seen them eat small earthworms and slugs.

PIGEONS: Australian Crested, Wonga Wonga, Triangular Spotted and Bronze-winged. These had access to the same food as the Doves, but partook more freely of larger seeds and also small maize.

The above are all interesting, and do not interfere with birds of the Finch-tribe in the least, and form a most pleasing and interesting addition to the mixed aviary; and I for one should be glad to see more about them in the Club Journal.

I would add to the above the common Barbary Turtle Dove makes an excellent foster-parent for the young of the rarer species, and where the periods of incubation coincide it is well to change about the respective clutches.

A MEMBER.

[We hope there will be a large response to the above and that members generally will describe, and give their experiences with the species they keep. Perhaps our esteemed members, Miss R. Alderson and Mr. T. H. Newman, will kindly contribute some notes on the *Columbidæ*.—ED.]

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. *must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.*

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st *of any month.*

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

ZEBRA FINCH (♀). (Rev. John M. Paterson, Sussex). Cause of death egg-binding. This is generally brought about by a chill, contracted during damp or chilly weather.

Egg-binding is, in my experience, always due to a chill. I have, however, never noticed it during intensely cold or hot weather, if dry. It has always occurred during chilly weather or easterly or northerly winds.

If the egg had been burst, your bird's life might have been saved.

In future, when you find a hen bird on the ground, panting, and having ruffled feathers, always examine the hinder part by means of index finger and thumb, for an egg, which generally cannot, in these cases, pass through the sphincter or ring of the cloacal outlet of the oviduct.

MILITARY STARLING (Philip Gosse, M.R.C.S.), Hants. This bird had been suffering some time from bird-fever. The liver and spleen were crammed with innumerable nodules. It is highly contagious by direct and indirect means. Adopt strict methods of disinfection. No doubt the companion bird died of the same complaint.

JACARINI FINCH (♂). (Miss H. Louise Morgan). Cause of death was pnemonia.

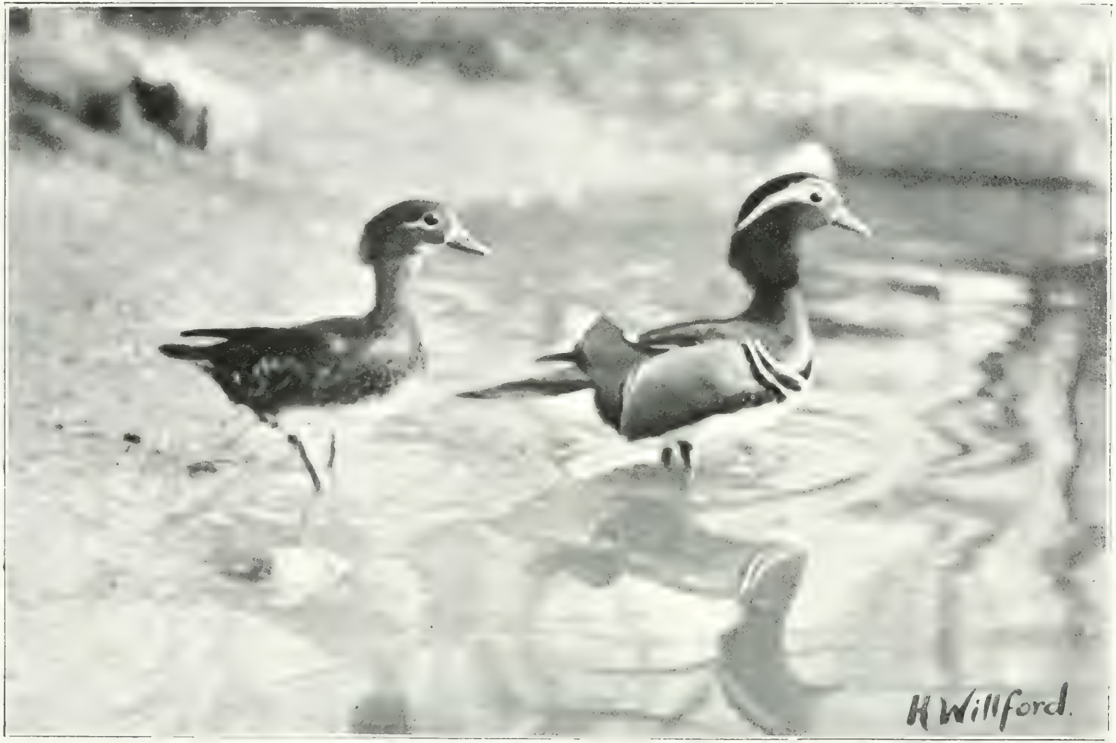
CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (♀). (The Hon. Lady Harvey, Slough). Cause of death, pneumo-enteritis, but without history of other birds in contact with it cannot say whether it is of the infectious type. It was somewhat emaciated.

SUPERB TANAGER (♂). (Mrs. Easton Scott). The cause of death was inflammation of the bowels. I do not consider the diet in any way contributed towards the bird's death. When frugivorous birds are a bit down, try malute of iron in the water and give them extract of malt.

VIOLET TANAGER (Mrs. C. H. Longdon). The cause of death was caseous or cheesy pneumonia, and must have been of some standing.

Answered by Post.—Miss Venie Maggs, Countess von Hahn, and the Hon. Mary C. Hawke.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S



Mandarin Ducks ♂ and ♀

Aex galericulata.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Waders' Aviary

By H. Willford.

(Continued from page 34).

In the previous instalment I described my aviary, but I am not confined to my Waders' aviary alone for these birds, as I have a medium sized pond, with rushes, etc., in my original Wilderness Aviary: here are located my smaller Waders, also a very fine pair of South African Crowned Cranes, and up to the present they have taken no notice of the small birds occupying that enclosure.

In this instalment I purpose describing a few suitable species, repeating my former warning that if Gulls and Ducks be kept with the smaller Waders, some provision must be made for keeping a supply of food for the latter, which the former cannot reach.

Several species I have photographed in the aviary, some of which illustrate these notes.

The Mandarin Duck *(Æx galericulata, Salvadori).* This exquisite species should be in every collection of waterfowl, its small size and gorgeous plumage make it *par excellence*, the duck for such a purpose, and it is not even out of place in the ordinary aviary where the bath is large enough for it to wade about in, moreover the quaint decorations of the male, as well as his plumage make him an object of interest—a bird to be noticed—under any conditions.

Description: *Adult male.* "In full plumage is a most "extravagantly decorated bird, his general 'get up' being suggestive of a Bird-of-Paradise rather than a duck. His crest, "very long and full, is copper-red in front and metallic-green "behind, and white at the sides, the white also occupying the "upper part of the face, but shading into buff as it nears the "ruff of bright chestnut hackles which adorns the neck. The "breast is purplish-maroon, and the abdomen white. "But the wings are the most remarkable part of the bird; the "innermost quill is expanded on its inner side into a chestnut "far three inches broad, while the outer web is of ordinary size "and bright steel-blue; the pinion quills are silvery-grey on the "outer and steely-blue on the inner webs. There are other "elegancies in this little harlequin's plumage, but it would take "too much space to describe them here, and the presence of the "orange ruff and wing-fans, or of either separately, is quite "enough for identification. The bill is rose-red, the eyes dark, "and the feet dull orange with black webs."

The *female* is a sober-looking but dainty little bird, but "always recognisable by the conspicuous silvery-grey and steely-"blue primary quills, which are like those of the male. Her "general colour above is plain brown, without any markings, "shading to grey on the head and crest. There is a narrow "white line round the eye, prolonged back into a streak. Her "sides are mottled with creamy-buff, and the abdomen white as "in the male. She has a horn-coloured bill and olive feet. "The *male in undress* is almost exactly like the female, more "so than in any other Duck, which is curious, seeing his ex-"travagance in attire when in full plumage. The white round "the eye, however, is less pronounced, and the head is greyer. "The only easy distinction, however, is the colour of the feet—"in a fresh specimen—for they always remain orange in the male; "though his bill sometimes turns dull like the female's and some-"times retains the beautiful rose tint of the full dress. *Young* "*males* are like the old male in *undress*, and the young females "like their mother." (*Waterfowl of India and Asia.*—F. Finn).

The energetic demeanour of these birds forms one of their most interesting characteristics, they are always in evidence, the male displaying to or caressing his mate, or again engaged in foraging; it is almost elegant! But I cannot linger, or these notes will reach an undue length, it simply remains for me to say, that if you have a Waders' aviary, include a pair of Mandarins.

The Knot *(Tringa canútus. LINN.)* Knots are undoubtedly the waders most frequently met with in captivity, and I think they merit their popularity, for apart from being hardy and readily accommodating themselves to a more or less restrained existence, they are of a very attractive appearance and soon become tame and confiding.

Description: In breeding plumage the head and neck are reddish-brown, with darker streaks; feathers of the mantle brownish-black, spotted with chestnut and margined with white; upper tail coverts white, barred with black; cheeks, throat and breast rusty-red; remainder of under surface lighter rusty-red, with the flanks and under tail coverts whitish mottled with black. Total length 10 inches, bill $1\frac{1}{2}$.

In winter the plumage is ash-grey above, and whitish flecked with grey below.

In a wild state these birds are to be found around our coasts in the winter months only, for towards the commencement of spring they migrate to their breeding haunts in Iceland, Greenland, and Arctic America.

In captivity they thrive and keep fit on small biscuit meal and chopped raw liver, and are also very fond of earthworms, insects, etc. To anyone starting a Waders' aviary this species is to be strongly recommended.

Their value varies from 6s. to 15s. per pair, according to condition, whether freshly caught, etc.

THE GREEN PLOVER *(Vanéllus vulgaris,* Bech.*).* Probably the next in popularity are the Plovers, and of these the Green Plover or Lapwing is the most frequently kept and perhaps the best known. This species, like the Knot, readily becomes accustomed to captivity, and thrives on the same food. The Green Plover breeds in England, and although it has never, so far as I know, been bred in captivity, yet it strikes one as being a likely species to do so.

DESCRIPTION: *Adult male.* In breeding plumage the crown and crest are greenish-black; sides of neck whitish; upper parts metallic-green, glistening with purple and bronze reflections; tail white with a sub-terminal black band; throat and breast black with a blue sheen; belly and abdomen white; upper and under tail-coverts light fawn-colour. Total length $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

RINGED PLOVER *(Ægialitis hiaticola, LINN.)* It is fairly common round the coast, but not so easy to procure or to meat off as the other species. They seem to require an abundance of small insect life, and when first put with other Waders, are liable to be starved by their larger companions, unless well looked after.

The value of a pair ranges from 15s. to 25s.

The Grey *(Squatárola helvetica, LINN.),* and the Golden Plovers *(Charádrius pluviális, LINN.),* are very similar in build and very hardy; the difference being in the ground colour of the back, grey in the former and golden-yellow in the latter. The Grey Plover is only met with in England during the winter and spring, whereas the Golden stays with us to breed. Both are interesting and beautiful species for the Waders' aviary, and the dietary given for the preceding species will suffice for these also.

The value of a pair varies from 10s. to 20s.

THE OYSTER CATCHER *(Hæmatopus ôstralegus. LINN.)*, is another very interesting and handsome species to keep; it is fairly hardy, and soon settles down to aviary life, but a liberal meat diet is necessary to its general well-being. This species is also known as the Sea-pie and Mussel Catcher.

DESCRIPTION: *Adults.* Head, nape, upper part of breast, back, wings, and end of tail black; collar, base of tail feathers, primaries, wing band and under surface of body white; bill orange-vermilion; irides crimson; feet reddish-flesh colour. Total length 16½ inches. The young have the black areas mottled with brown; the white areas dingy; bill and orbits dusky; feet greyish. The arrangement of the colour areas is well shown on the plate (fig. 3). The eggs are olive-brown, blotched and spotted with ash-grey and black. The clutch is usually three, but occasionally four eggs are deposited in the nest.

In a wild state their food consists of mussels and other bivalves, limpets, crustacea, small fish, and marine plants.

The value of a pair is about 25s.

THE REDSHANK (*Totanus cálidris, LINN.*) A most interesting species, very handsome as will be seen from fig. 1 of plate, in which the markings of the plumage and a characteristic posture of the bird is shown.

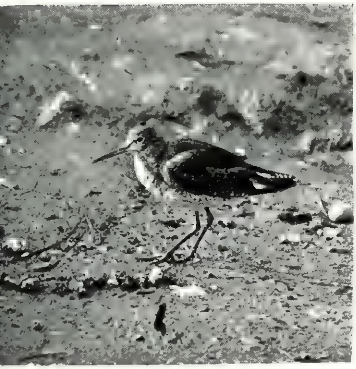
DESCRIPTION: *Summer plumage.* Upper parts buffish-brown profusely barred and streaked with rich umber-brown; tail white, thickly barred with dusky-black; under parts white, spotted and streaked with dusky-black; bill black, with the basal half of both mandibles red; legs and feet vermilion-red.

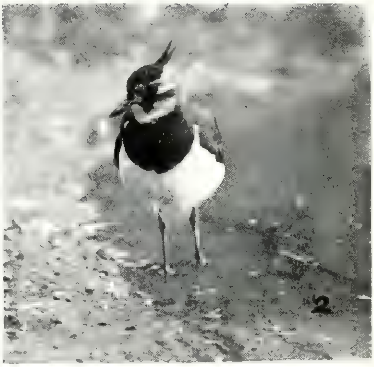
Total length 11 inches, bill 1¾. In the winter the upper parts are ash-brown; rump white; under parts whitish-ash-grey, with a few ashy streaks and spots.

The *female* is a little larger than the male and is more rufous-brown on the mantle.

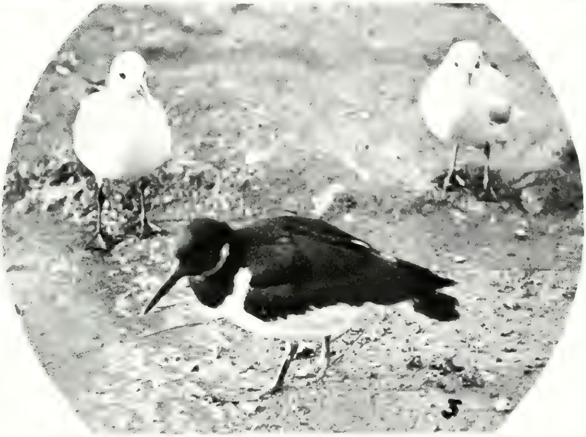
The eggs usually number four and are greenish-yellow, blotched and spotted with purplish-brown.

In a wild state they feed on aquatic insects generally, worms, crustacea, small molluscs, and any animal matter to be found on the sea-shore. In captivity it can be fed as the other species described in these notes.

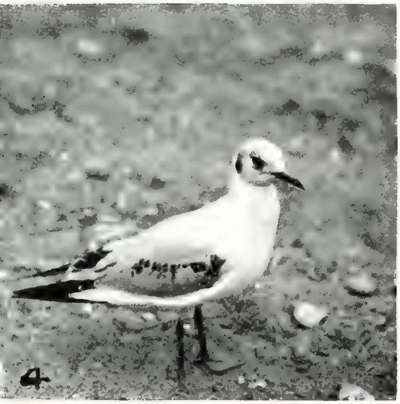


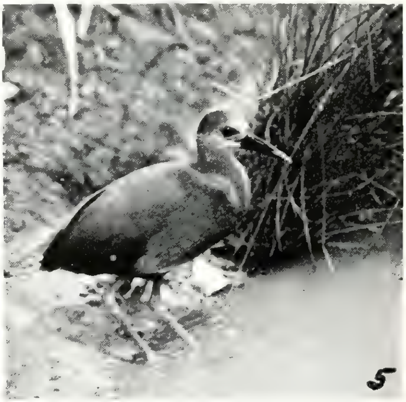


BIRD NOTES.



Photos by H. Willford.





1. Redshank.
2. Green Plover.
3. Oyster Catcher and B.H. Gulls.
4. Black-headed Gull.
5. Mexican Rail.

Gulls, Dunlins, Sanderlings, Sandpipers, Curlews, etc., I must leave for next instalment.

(To be continued).

The Great White-headed (Red-rumped) Weaver.

(Dinemellia dinemelli).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S.

A specimen of this rare species (as a living bird) was exhibited by our esteemed member Mr. C. T. Maxwell at various shows during the season 1910-11, where it was described as the Red-rumped Weaver, but as its original cognomen is equally descriptive, this had better be retained, and therefore must still be known as the Great White-headed Weaver.

Our esteemed member Mr. S. Williams, jun., drew this bird at the L.C.B.A. exhibition, adding a few finishing touches thereto at the recent L.P.O.S. show at the Crystal Palace. He has kindly lent us the drawing for reproduction. Mr. Willford, our esteemed Bus. Sec. and Treasurer, has kindly taken a photo of the drawing, from which the block has been made.

Mr. Williams also sends me the following notes, culled from the late E. Bartlet's book.

"*Textor dinemelli* or Great White-headed Weaver. This " first seems to have been known about 1844-5. Gray-et-" Mitchell. Gen. of Birds II.

"Habitat: N.E. and E. Africa. Between about 12 deg. " N.L., and 7.5 deg. Lat. from Shoa Tomati to Mamboio Female " similar but not so large as the male.

First specimen obtained by Major Harris in Shoa, Abys-" sinia, 1845. In their native haunts they feed on berries, millet " and insects. It is found flying in small flocks and utters when " on the wing a cry "*Kuk Kuk,*" something like a Woodpecker, " their flight is awkward and clumsy.

"Their nests which are usually placed in the summit of " thorny Acacias, consist of large untidy tufts of grass, feathers " and leaves, and are entered by an opening in the lower side.

"Capt. Shelley writes in the "Ibis," 1885—These birds " breed " in colonies; the eggs are green, thickly speckled with " dark brown, 0.95 long."

This species, though a handsome bird, is heavily built and of large size, being about the size of the Hawfinch, but with a less formidable beak. It is an easily described bird, the upper parts being brown, excepting the head, neck, and rump, the two former being white, and the latter red; the underparts are white, tinged with dusky here and there. It has quite a formidable appearance and should be introduced among smaller birds with caution. It appeared, apart from its rarity, rather uninteresting in a cage, appearing to be dull and listless in demeanour, but the limits of a show-cage make it difficult to form an opinion.

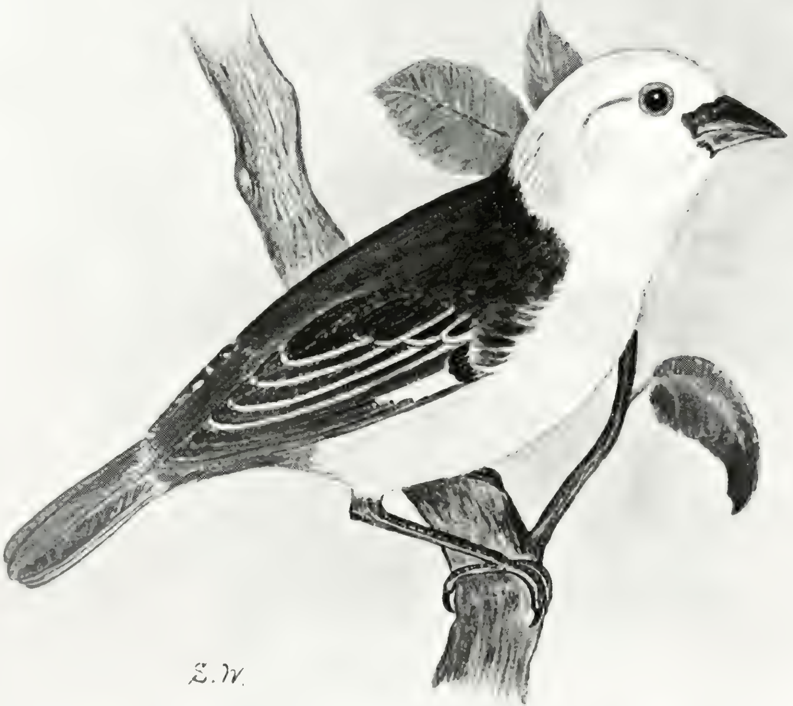
A true pair, in a roomy, natural aviary, would doubtless make a fine show: their contrasty plumage would certainly make them conspicuous, and under such conditions their robust form would be merged in the general proportion of things. I have generally noticed this with other similar species, that a bird which appears robustly formed, almost to ugliness, in a cage, appears exactly the reverse when it is seen, under the conditions of aviary life. Many of its near relatives are certainly more gorgeously apparalled and of more elegant form, yet this species in the garden aviary, enjoying semi-freedom, disporting itself amid the living greenery, would I opine be a sight to enthuse over. At any rate, I hope the opportunity of such an experience comes my way.

In response to my enquiry, Mr. C. T. Maxwell kindly sends me the following notes, which, however, did not arrive till after the above was passed to printer.

"I am very glad you are giving an illustration of my
" Red-rumped Weaver, in this month's Magazine, yet I am quite
" at a loss to know what to say about it, excepting that so
" far as I can gather, it was the only one to reach the Lon-
" don dealers out of a number that came into the hands of a
" continental firm last summer. I disposed of this bird some
" little time since to a fellow member whom I am pleased to
" say occasionally exhibits at our shows, so doubtless the bird
" will be heard of again on the show-bench, where it was so
" successful last season.

"While in my possession, I fed it on canary seed, insectile
" mixture, and a few mealworms daily. It had a short loud
" and rather curious kind of song.

"I had but little opportunity of studying its habits as
" I only kept it in a small cage it really looked too formid-
" able a bird to put with anything smaller than itself in a limited
" space, and my room is very limited."



The Great White-headed (Red-rumped) Weaver.
Dinemellia (Textor) dinemelli.

Drawn from life by Sydney Williams, jun.

Nesting of the Ruddy Finch.

(Carpodacus mexicanus).

By W. Teschemaker, B.A.

This handsome Finch is a native of Mexico, but is very closely allied to, or, more probably, a local race of *C. frontalis* of California. There are presumably several of these local races because I have noted well marked differences of type in individual specimens. It has some general resemblance to our Linnet, but it is a longer, larger bird, with stouter beak and broader head. The back and wing coverts are ashy, streaked and mottled with dark brown; flights and rectrices dark brown; rump, forehead and throat crimson. Hens are brownish, but some show a trace of red on the rump. This species closely resembles the European Carmine Finch (*C. erythrinus)* but the latter has a good deal more crimson in the plumage, especially on the lower breast.

Any bird which is called *Carpodacus* is sure to be partial to buds, and the Ruddy Finch is no exception, its depredations in fruit gardens causing it to be as much detested by gardeners as the Bullfinch is in this country. A single pair in the course of a very few days so completely stripped a privet hedge in my aviary of its leaves, that they left absolutely nothing but bare twigs and even these they severely pruned.

I had a nest of this species in 1909 but the eggs did not hatch. Last season I obtained another pair from Mr. Cross and turned them out on 20th March. Although they came into my hands only a few days after they reached this country the crimson of the male's plumage had already turned into a sickly yellow. They may possibly have been kept in confinement for some time before exportation, but there is no doubt that this shade is the most evanescent of all. In this connection it may be of interest to mention that our Editor very kindly gave me on the 10th March last year a Pink-browed Finch (to replace one that I had lost), which had been imported in the spring of 1908 (having therefore undergone two autumnal moults in this country) and had completely lost its handsome crimson plumage. It was indistinguishable from one that I had moulted in the house and another that had been kept in an outdoor aviary with a heated annexe. I kept this bird out all last autumn and winter in my breeding aviary, which has no shelter, and it has completely resumed not only the bright crimson of the superciliary streak but the clear rose-colour of the breast: it is in fact as richly coloured as any wild specimen. I believe this to be very nearly if not quite, an unique occurrence. It has been generally assumed that an artificial diet is the cause of the loss of this colour after a moult in captivity, but I am inclined to think that it is largely due to too dry an atmosphere.

Under date 19th April, I have the following note: "Mex. Ruddy Finches very restless: is this their migration period"? However, they soon settled down in their new quarters, and proved a very steady pair; all the other specimens that I have had have been rather wild.

My next note is as follows: "15th May. *C. Mex.* laid one egg: large, deep nest in privet, lined with some feathers: eggs bluish-white, with black spots: much resembling that of the White-throated Seedeater."

The sweet and clear notes of the male (which have earned for this species in its own country the popular name of "Californian Linnet") could be heard in the aviary from early morning till sunset. The song has not much variety but the liquid, piping notes can be heard at considerable distance, and are distinctly musical—in fact, I cannot at this moment call to mind any *Carpodacus*, known to me, that sings so well.

The hen laid three eggs, but on the 1st June I examined the nest, and found only two, so presumably one had hatched, and the squab had perished. I tested the remaining eggs and found them infertile.

On the 12th June I found the hen in a badly collapsed condition—in fact only an immediate dose of whisky and two days careful nursing saved her life. However, after laying a soft egg she pulled round, and was turned out on the evening of the 13th, and on the 16th she commenced to sit, in a new nest, on a clutch of three eggs.

This nest was also destined to failure and on the 5th July I removed two eggs, there being no trace of the third egg, which had possibly hatched.

On the 12th the hen was again in need of medical attention and had to be brought into the house, where I succeeded in taking an egg from her, turning her out on the following day. On the 15th, she commenced to sit in the same nest on one egg.

On the 27th, two young were hatched; they were thinly covered with remarkably long, greyish down. The 28th was a wild, stormy day, with a strong S.W. wind and torrents of rain, which proved too much for one of the newly hatched young. The fate of the remaining youngster hung in the balance for several days. It did not grow, and this I have always regarded as a certain indication that the result would be failure; but there is always an exception and to my great surprise the infant turned the corner and, on the 10th August, it was sitting up in the nest with that peculiar expression, which the aviculturist has no difficulty in interpreting: it means that the fledgling has made up its mind to leave the old home, and see for itself what the wide world is really like.

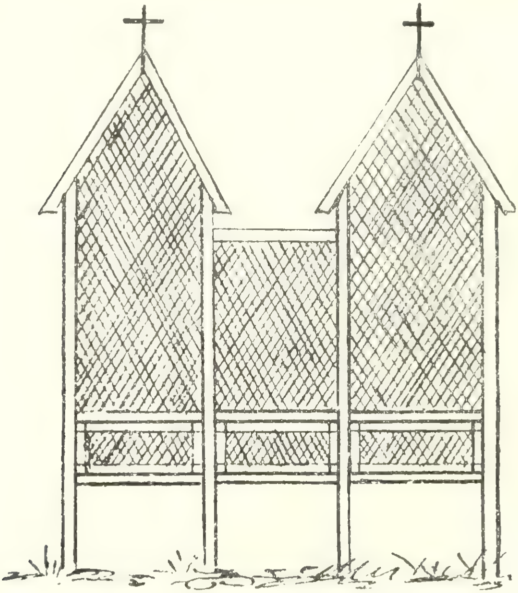
On the 14th it was flying strongly and looked the exact counterpart of the female, except that it was rather lighter in shading.

My last entry is: "19th September. Sent two pairs of *Carp. Mex.*" to———" (one of our members). If I recollect aright, the young bird was a female and, as I happened to have an unrelated male, I hope our member may this season succeed in rearing a few broods, for this is a species which is well worth keeping, its one and only bad quality being its taste for buds.

Freely Imported Species and Their Treatment.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Zebra Finches, Silverbills, and Bronze Mannikins: At the request of several, I am giving further notes of my early experience in Foreign Bird keeping. I am also describing a portable three compartment, outdoor cage, which I found to be a useful adjunct to a small aviary. From the rough sketches given below, it will be seen that its construction was very simple; it stood twelve inches above the ground and the height was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the floor of the cage to apex of gable; the centre compartment having a lean-to roof. The sides, back, and roof were constructed of half-inch tongued and grooved matching, the framing of one-inch quartering, the roof was covered with felt over the matching, and the fronts consisted of half-inch diamond mesh, hand woven netting. There was a hinged flap at the front of each compartment, for feeding and cleaning purposes, also a large door in the back of each compartment, for distempering, inserting branches, nest receptacles, etc.



Elevation.

Scale ½" to foot.

Plan.

It will be seen from the above rough diagrams, that each compartment was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet square, with a height of 3 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, further description is unnecessary, save perhaps to add that at the back of each compartment, a Hartz travelling-cage was fixed, as high up as possible, as a nest receptacle; and in this portable outdoor cage I bred the three species described in this paper. The above cage stood in my garden under a large Victoria Plum tree, and faced the small garden aviary, figured and described on page 5 of current volume.

THE ZEBRA FINCH (*Tæniopygia castanotis*).: This, one of the best known of Australian Finches, has not been so freely imported of late years. While not gorgeous in plumage it certainly is not plain, and its characteristics and demeanour are distinctly interesting. It is found freely in all parts of Australia, save perhaps in the East.

DESCRIPTION: Top of the head, neck, and fore part of back pearl-grey, gradually merging into the brownish-grey of the lower back; rump and upper tail coverts white barred with black; tail black; sides of face whitish-grey, separated from the rich chestnut ear-coverts by a narrow black streak; throat and forechest silvery grey, barred with black; mid-chest black; remainder of under surface white, slightly washed with buff; sides of body rufous-chestnut spotted with white; beak bright red; feet reddish-flesh colour. The hen is a pretty but unassuming brownish-grey bird, lighter on the under parts and entirely lacking the black and chestnut markings of the male.

WILD LIFE: They are usually found in small flocks, and mostly on the ground, as their main diet consists of the seeds of various grasses. The nest is flask-shaped and is usually found at a low elevation.

IN CAPTIVITY: In cage or aviary, they will avail themselves of any box, travelling cage, or husk that is available or filch the nest of some other bird; the eggs are white and the clutch varies from three to seven. I have had a brood of six robust youngsters leave the nest simultaneously though the number is usually three or four, and there are usually three and sometimes four broods during the year. Incubation lasts thirteen days, and the young are always interesting. After they have left the nest, they follow their parents about, throw themselves sideways, turn the beak upwards, and " yell blue-murder for grub " (one of our members will recognise this descriptive remark), a sight which I am never tired of observing. They are general favourites, and a pair are mostly to be found in every garden aviary, where with their cheeky, self-assertive ways and penny trumpet sort of song, they are always in evidence, and are nearly always interesting or amusing. In the cage already described they reared two broods during the season, building a domed nest in a Hartz travelling-cage, fully rearing eight youngsters, which "yelled blue-murder" for food long after they were able to fend for themselves.

Diet: Canary, white millet, millet-sprays, greenfood, cuttlebone, and grit, and when they are feeding young a little soft food: they will, nevertheless, rear their young on seed alone. I, however, have noticed the parent birds, both in this cage and in the aviary, catching flies and taking them to their young. They have been crossed with numerous other allied species

The Silverbill *(Aidemosyne cantans).* This bird calls for but little notice, being well known; is plainly but prettily clad, and forms a pleasing addition to the garden aviary. A pair in a roomy cage are also interesting, and if the trouble be taken to provide them with nesting accommodation, will readily nest, and bring up several broods in the course of the year, without fuss or trouble for they are most excellent parents, and usually fully rear all they hatch out.

Description: Upper surface golden-brown, lightly washed with grey on the mantle and middle of back, with lighter margins to all the feathers, imparting a pretty sealed appearance to the bird; flight and tail feathers blackish-brown, the tail is long and pointed; under surface sandy-buff, with light margins, to most of the feathers; centre of abdomen and under tail-coverts white; beak silvery-blue-grey; beak blue-grey; feet greyish. The female is slightly smaller and her plumage is less lustrous, though the difference is not great and of course only applies to adult birds.

Wild Life: This species is partial to the banks of streams and cultivated areas, and often uses the nests of Weaver-birds for reproducing its kind, lining them with feathers, wool, etc., and depositing therein three to five white eggs. From the observation of naturalists it would appear that this species does not spend much time on the ground, as it is mostly seen in hedges and scrub and but seldom on the ground, and I am of the opinion that insect life plays a larger part in its "bill of fare" than is generally admitted. The nest has been found in nearly every month of the year, so that several broods must be reared each season.

IN CAPTIVITY: These appear to nest readily, certainly in the instance I am describing they did so, and in the middle compartment of the cage, took to the Hartz travelling-cage at once, and constructed a domed nest therein, laying five white eggs, of which they hatched out and fully reared four; immediately going to nest again, and laying six more; of this brood only three were fully reared. Incubation in each instance lasted twelve to thirteen days. The young were fed largely on regurgitated seed, though soft food was eaten freely, and they were very keen on catching flies, also during the time they were feeding young greenfood was greedily eaten. A more extended acquaintance with this species confirms me in my first observations, as to its fondness for insect food. It has a pretty soft rippling song, is hardy and long lived

DIET: Canary, white millet, millet sprays, greenfood, grit, and cuttlebone, with the addition of soft food when they are feeding young.

THE BRONZE MANNIKIN *(Spermestes cucullata)*: Another charming African species, which ought to be in every collection of small birds. It is but little larger than an Avadavat, but is more stoutly built, with a really formidable beak, but is neverless quite amiable, though well able to take care of itself if interfered with; a charming species either for cage or aviary.

DESCRIPTION: Upper surface dark brown; top of head blackish with greenish sheen; forehead black; rump and upper tail-coverts brown, barred with white; tail black; shoulder band metallic green; sides of head, chin, throat, and chest bronzy-brown, glossed with purplish; breast, and abdomen white, sides of body barred with black and brown; beak leaden-grey; feet dark brown. The female is similar, has a narrower head, more tapering beak, the glossy areas of the male are slightly smaller in the female and less lustrous also, when comparing adult birds.

WILD LIFE: But very little has been recorded concerning these charming little birds, and I am only able to glean the following meagre facts: it is fond of the Mango tree as a nesting site—the nest is spherical and very large in proportion to the bird—very strongly woven together of fine grasses. The same nest is used several times in succession; the clutch is usually four white eggs. The birds are met with in flocks.

IN CAPTIVITY: In these notes I am speaking mainly of its breeding in the cage I have described and figured, and only making passing reference to its later behaviour in the aviary. They were put into the cage in May, and in the following month a nest was commenced in a Hartz travelling-cage, the only nest receptacle provided, and a clutch of four eggs was laid, and duly incubated, but did not hatch out, why I cannot tell, for each egg contained a dead chick. In July the last nest was pulled to pieces, and a fresh nest constructed and again four eggs were laid, and after being incubated for thirteen days all hatched out, and all were fully reared, mainly on seed, soft food, and greenstuff. They caught some insects, but none were supplied. With later broods, since reared in the aviary they have always managed to secure a share of the mealworms, etc., supplied to the other occupants, and have fed with these, as well as the larger number of flies captured in the aviary to what was possible in the cage. Their general demeanour under all circumstances has been amiable, unless interfered with, when they will not only defend themselves, but administer a severe beating to birds much larger than themselves. In my aviary it has crossed with the Magpie Mannikin, and several broods of hybrids have resulted.

DIET: Same as for the other species described in this article, but this species is very keen on getting some live food, and it is certainly the better for a little.

In conclusion I wish to point out that I did not use the cage in the winter, only as summer quarters, the birds going into the aviary each October, and it answered its purpose well—lessening the congestion of the aviary, and increasing the breeding results. It was only discarded when a larger aviary and birdroom were put up, as too many enclosures and cages required more time than I could give them.

A Holiday in the West Indies.

By A. Sutcliffe

(Concluded from page 295, *Vol. I., N.S.*

My holiday was now drawing to a close. We had made many nice friends, who wanted to show us different parts of the Island of Trinidad. We accepted an invitation to pass a week end at a friend's house up in the hills, and set out in a buggie early in the morning. It was a lovely drive of about eight miles. I was surprised at the number of Tanagers in the cocoa plantations, the Blue, Black, Maroon, and Scarlet, were very numerous, behaving in a very similar way to our Blackbird. Desmarest and Yellow-bellied Tanagers were not so numerous. The Violet Tanager, whose native name is Louis D'or, could be seen in flocks of quite a hundred. There were many Finches, but they were difficult to identify. The Yellow-headed Marsh Bird we met with in small parties. I only once recognised the Red-breasted Marsh Bird, although there were hundreds of birds I could not identify. On the Tuesday I saw a few Spotted Emerald Tanagers, quite close to our friend's house. On the Monday we set out on a bathing expedition to Mazaresch Bay, one of the most lovely spots in the West Indies. There are huge cliffs on each side, with a perfect white coral beach, blazing hot with the vertical sun and the water as clear as crystal. Here we spent about two hours, roaming about in the beautifully cool water, under the shade of the cliffs, amusing ourselves trying to dive deep enough to touch the rocks, which only looked to be a few feet down, but were really about 20 feet from the surface, the clearness of the water made it very deceptive, one could see the fish swimming about. There were scores of Pelicans whirling round and above us, and when they "spotted" a fish down they came, quite 100 feet just like a ball, and when a few feet from the water shot out their long neck and went down without a splash. They returned to the surface practically every time with a fish, often nearly as big as themselves, it was most interesting to watch them, in fact my friend nearly had to dress me to get me away. We had a mishap before we left, our dog was bitten by a snake, and died almost instantaneously, so we had to leave him for the John Crows, who were already looking for a meal. How the poison would effect them we did not wait to see. We returned to our friend's house, and commenced cutting bananas and amusing ourselves generally in the Cocoa Plantation close to the house, while the younger members of the household went catching birds for me; they got quite a cage full of Tanagers and Finches. These I carefully conveyed to our Hotel to add to my fairly large collection there of about 200, and then came the sight we did not wish to see. As we drove along the coast we saw our ship anchored in the offing, and knew that within 24 hours we should be ploughing our way home to the dear old country, and what was worse still for me *to work*. The next morning found me busy packing my birds and traps, and after a good lot of tipping got them safely aboard, then came the ordeal of interviewing the Butcher. I had four cages each four feet long, and several smaller ones. A wink and bottle of Black and White did the trick, and I got my birds safely stowed away in the spacious butcher's shop, which was about six feet square. I now had to bid farewell to all the good fellows I had met, which is rather a strenous ordeal in a hot climate where one can always raise a thirst, and the Homeward bound Mail Steamers' sailing day spells holiday for the young bloods of the Island, and this I think was a red-letter day for them but rather a costly one for us.

Now a few lines about bird keeping aboard ship, which is no sinecure, as to do it properly and succeed in landing your captives means do it yourself. I religiously attended to them twice daily, cleaning all cages out once daily, fed and watered them and took out the *dead ones*, but, I must say all went well with mine until we reached the Azores, when in the middle of the night a gale sprang up, and the cages were thrown about the butcher's shop. The cage containing my choicest Tanagers which was on top suffered the worst, it was broken up and I lost every bird in it. They were Desmarests, Vieilotts, Spotted Emeralds and I believe three different Manakins; they were a beautiful lot. The cages were of course put square before I saw them, but the death roll that night was quite 100 birds, This was very disappointing and I can assure you I almost wept. I now set to and made all the cages fast and secure. The gale raged all the way home from the Azores, and made it difficult for me to get down to the birds which were quartered on the lower deck, and it was a case of run between the waves as she was shipping heavy seas all the time, and if a wave did catch you it was a case of into the scuppers every time, and well, you would be no wetter overboard. If you got to the door it was difficult to get inside without taking a sea with you. You can imagine the language of a Cockney East End butcher when one day I let a sea in with me he even made the birds sing. I can only say every bird landed is valuable and that importing is not all milk and honey, especially if one suffers from *mal-de-mer*.

Winter Visit to Members Aviaries.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

In February it was my privelege to pay a visit to the aviaries of our esteemed members Messrs. A. Sutcliffe and R. Suggitt, and though at this season there is not much to report, yet all was in excellent order and the birds fit and well.

Mr. Sutcliffe's aviaries are roomy and well arranged, the largest and latest being empty, for refitting and alterations. When completed this will make a fine roomy enclosure, it is about 48 x 20 feet and lofty. His earlier aviaries have already been described in our pages, and as we hope to have photos and plans a little later, further description had better be left till then.

The birdroom was well arranged and contained four roomy flights, as well as a few cages; it was kept at a comfortable heat by a H. W. radiator, and the birds were all very flourishing and fit.

I noticed here Maroon, Palm, Blue, Black, and Violet Tanagers; Yellow-winged Sugarbirds, Black and Yellow Creepers (Banana Quits), a very interesting series of *Spermophilæ*—Black-headed Lined, Grey, Lined, Lavender-backed, and Fire-red Finches, and all in pairs, which by their fitness, give great promise of breeding during the coming season. There were also some Tropical Seed Finches, Black Grosbeaks, Thick-billed Seed Finch, and several other unidentified species;

besides a whole host of Grassfinches, Waxbills, etc. I also noticed excellent pairs of Indigo and Nonpareil Buntings, and an odd specimen of *Cyanospiza*, which, being out of colour I was unable to identify.

In the outdoor aviary were several species of Cardinals, White-throated Laughing Thrushes, Malabar Starlings, Glossy Starlings, Black-winged Grackles, quite a number of Doves and Pigeons, including several rare species, as well as many other species I cannot call to mind, as I did not make out a list at the time.

Mr. Suggitt's aviaries also have been fully described. His birds were looking very fit and sleek, here again were quite a number of interesting pairs, including the *Spermophilæ* mentioned in list of Mr. Sutcliff's birds, several Grosbeaks, Red-throated Blue Sugarbirds, Banana Quits, Yellow-wing Sugarbirds, Blue, Palm, and Maroon Tanagers; American Catbirds, Olive-backed Thrushes; Indigo and Nonpareil Buntings, as well as an unidentified specimen of the genus *Cyanospiza*. Quite a varied series of Doves and Pigeons were disporting themselves in the outdoor flight, also quite a number of other Finches, Buntings, etc. With a modicum of luck several breeding medals should be secured by our esteemed members during the season now close upon us.

Early in March I made a visit to the I.of W. and saw the aviaries and birds of our esteemed Hon. Business Sec., and after spending a few days here, made a passing visit to Mr. Mathias, at Stubbington, and also to Dr. Philip Gosse, at Beaulieu, Hants.

At Mr. Willford's, I found the outdoor aviaries being overhauled and put in thorough trim for the breeding season. These aviaries have already been figured and described in our pages, so it must now suffice to say that they have since matured, and are full of excellent natural cover and provide full accommodation for the birds' needs; their usefulness has been greatly enhanced by the provision of roomy shelters, the old Wilderness aviary* now possesses a reedy pond, with a good sandy beach, and with the other birds are now associated some Waders, and while I was there a grand pair of African Crowned Cranes arrived, which were turned into this enclosure.

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* *See large coloured plate forming frontispiece to last Vol.*

These were a grand pair of birds, and save for cut flights, were in marvellous condition for birds just having made a journey from Portugal. Apart from the cut wings, the plumage was marvellously tight and silken, and the birds entrancing objects to feast the eyes upon. The photos of the Waders' aviary recently reproduced (see February issue) certainly do not flatter this enclosure, which in a few months will be a fine sight indeed. Another Wilderness aviary 71ft. x 33ft. was nearly complete and will be ready for the season now so near at hand; several of the smaller enclosures are to be amalgamated, so that this season there will be four or five large wilderness enclosures. There are two large bird-rooms for the winter housing of the more delicate species, and there certainly ought to be some notable results. As to the birds apart from these already mentioned I noted in the bird-rooms and aviaries :—

TANAGERS: Magpie, Superb, Gold and Green, Blue, Scarlet, Maroon, Black, and Crimson-crowned.

SUGAR BIRDS : Red-throated Blue, Yellow-winged, Purple and Black-headed.

FINCHES: Diuca, Jacarini, Black-headed Lined, Ruficauda, Painted, Cuba, Pileated, Aurora, Dusky, Gouldian, Parrot and many others.

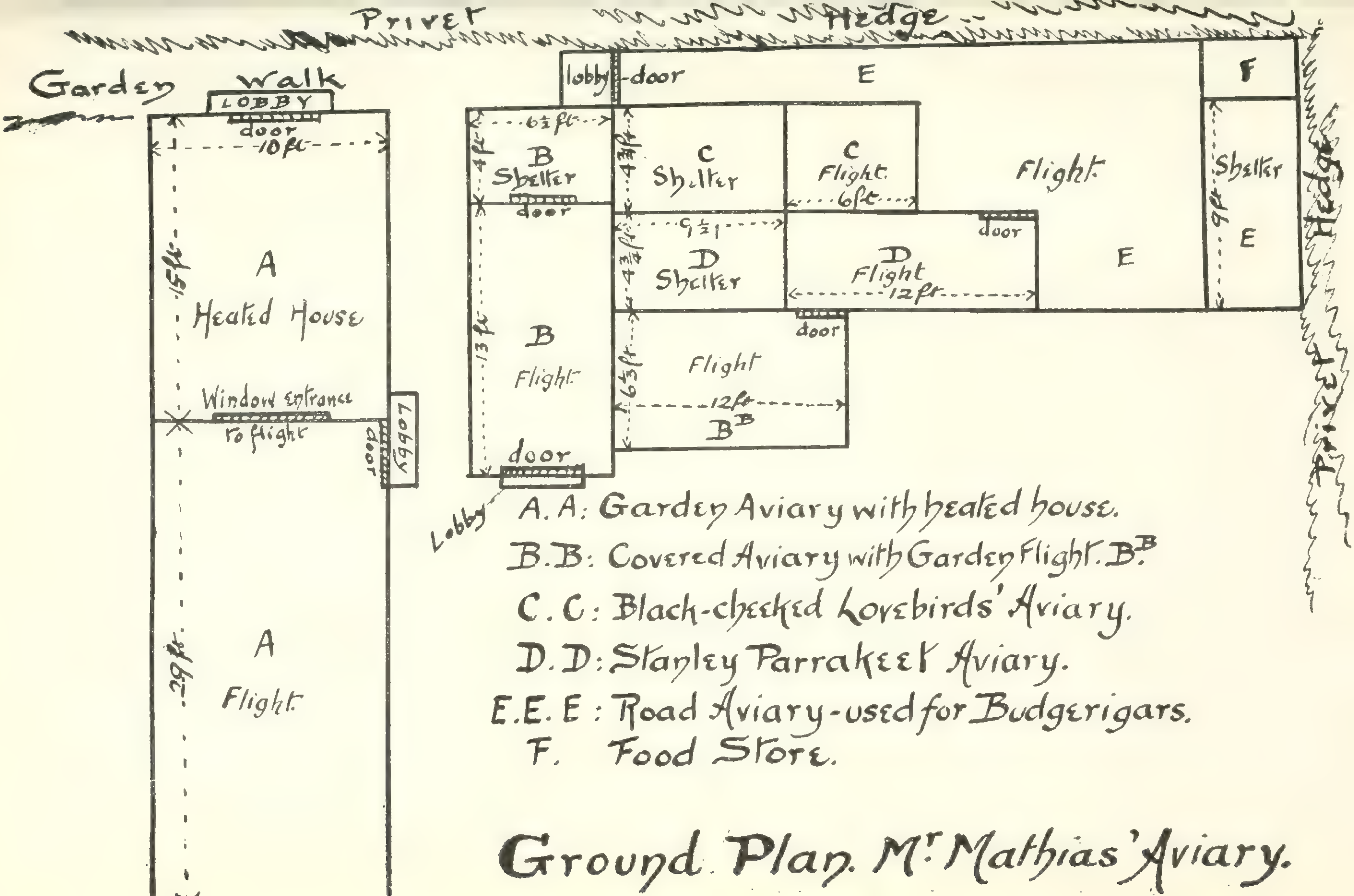
BUNTINGS : Indigo, Hair-crest, Black-headed, and Red-headed.

DOVES : Of these I noticed Diamond, Passerine, Talpacoti, Plumed Ground, but there were many others.

I also noticed White-crested Touracous, Maroon Orioles, Olive Saltators, Lettered Aracari, Black-headed Sibias, Common Mynahs, Red-breasted Marshbirds, Silver-eared Mesias, Blue-bearded Jays, Brown's Parrakeets, Ceram (Yellow-backed) Lories, and others too numerous to mention.

MR. MATHIAS' AVIARIES: These aviaries have also been described, but not fully figured, so that I think a ground plan may be of practical use, as they have been materially increased, altered and re-arranged since then.

AVIARY A.—This is a new erection, only just completed. The heated house is a green-house, which has been lined inside and outside the glass with roofing felt; it is fitted with a range of hot-water pipes and forms admirable winter quar-


Privet
Hedge
Garden Walk
LOBBY
door
10 ft
15 ft
A
Heated House
Window entrance to flight
Lobby
door
29 ft
A
Flight
lobby
door
E
F
6½ ft
4 ft
B
Shelter
door
13 ft
B
Flight
door
Lobby
C
Shelter
4¾ ft
C
Flight
6 ft
Flight
Shelter
9 ft
E
9½
4¾ ft
D
Shelter
D
Flight
12 ft
door
E
6¾ ft
Flight
12 ft
B^B
door
Hedge
Privet

A. A: Garden Aviary with heated house.

B. B: Covered Aviary with Garden Flight. B^B.

C. C: Black-cheeked Lovebirds' Aviary.

D. D: Stanley Parrakeet Aviary.

E. E. E: Road Aviary-used for Budgerigars.

F. Food Store.

Ground. Plan. Mr Mathias' Aviary.

ters for such species as need a little warmth. The flight has been arranged and planted as a garden, with a bank running along one side for the use of ground birds. It has been planted with Rambler Roses, Evergreens, Privet, Perennial Sunflowers, Michaelmas Daisies, and other herbaceous plants, the centre portion is turfed, and there is a cemented bath with soak-away underneath.

AVIARY B.—This does not call for description, as both elevation and ground plan were figured on pages 68 and 69 of Vol. viii, *B.N.*, and a full description given. For the benefit of new readers I had better say that the flight has a covered roof, but the garden flight (B.B.) which has been added since the plans, etc., appeared in Vol. VIII., has added greatly to the value of this aviary. During the winter months the birds are shut off from the garden flight, and their quarters are certainly very snug and comfortable, and there are but few species that would not winter safely therein.

Here again I made no list of the birds, but I noticed several species of Grassfinches, including good pairs of Gouldian, Painted, Red-headed, Pileated, and Cuba Finches; also a grand Painted Finch (♂), this is one of the best I have seen, the areas of red were large, and the white spottings very clean and regular. There were also gathered together here various Waxbills, Mannikins, Finches, as well as Stanley Parrakeets, Black-cheeked Love-birds, Budgerigars, and a very fine female Red-vented Blue-bonnet Parrakeet, as well as many others, and there appeared to be every promise of a successful season. The Black-cheeked Lovebirds have successfully reared young during the winter, and Mr. Mathias promises us an account of same for a near issue.

My last call was at Dr. P. Gosse's, at Beaulieu, Hants. Here was a nice roomy garden aviary with a shelter all along the back, and a roomy garden-like flight, divided into several sections, in which were numerous Finches, Waxbills, Buntings, Quails, etc. There were also two pairs of Bearded Tits, one pair of which were evidently thinking of setting-up housekeeping, and this pair were certainly a picture to feast the eyes upon—their rich colouration, tight and silken plumage, were magnificent, and I don't ever remember to have seen their equal—they have been out of doors all the winter. Dr. Gosse has also a number of Californian Quails, which were very fine.

I also noted Cape and Diamond Doves, Red-backed Buntings, Common Indian Mynahs, Bib Finches, Pintail Nonpareil and various Cardinals.

I was much interested here in the indigenous species, which were to be seen around, the Pied Wagtail is with them all the year round. I was pleased to see that Chaffinches were more abundant than Sparrows. I also noted the Nuthatch, Tree Pipit, Water-hen, while Thrushes, Blackbirds, and Starlings abounded on every hand. On the river at the bottam of the garden were a number of Waders, Redshanks, and many others.

I was also interested to see the Budgerigars at liberty in the garden, they come regularly for food, and some still go to a small shed, attached to the aviaries at night for shelter. It was most interesting to note their evolutions on the wing, and witness the marvellous rapidity of their unrestrained flight.

I trust our esteemed member, will send us an account of his aviaries and birds, with photo and plan for a near issue.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh, India)

By Captain G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

Continued from p. 358, Vol. I., N.S.

The Black-headed Sibia (*Malacias* [*Lioptila*] *capistrata*), is a distinctly handsome bird of slim build and sprightly habits. I have only kept them in a travelling cage, where they were no favourites of mine, as they were messy and nervous. In an aviary I should think they would be delightful, but fancy that they would want watching if placed with small birds. With me, they ate a certain amount of insect food, but greatly preferred fruit, especially oranges. In the aviary I should certainly allow them access to bread and milk; live insects, and mealworms are much appreciated. They do not seem to mind heat and certainly are indifferent to cold. In a wild state I have never seen them below about 6,000 feet, they seem to be residents at that height and upwards. In spite of their retiring habits, I certainly should have noticed them if they, like many hill birds, came down lower in winter.

DESCRIPTION: Below bright rufous; above greyish brown; head black; tail rufous with a black band near the blue tip; the wing pattern has white, blue, chestnut, and black in it Length nearly 9 inches, tail 4.

Since writing the above, I have seen more of these fascinating birds in a wild state. A small party visited the compound this winter, and were very much in evidence, quite contrary to my previous experience of them higher up in the summer. They proved easy to capture, especially after the first one fell a victim, being very sociable birds, They took very well to captivity, getting on to bread and milk at once.

THE INDIAN WHITE-EYE *(Zosterops palpebrosa)*. I have already written about at some length. Our esteemed Editor. in the Editorial of the June number, mentioned that a pair of mine had nested. In continuation I can add that incubation lasted ten days and that the three young only lived a few days. Times were too strenuous to give them a chance. As regards my notes about a seasonable change of plumage, Major Harrington writes in the Bombay Natural History Journal that he made a somewhat similar observation in Burmah, but the chestnut was found to wash out on the application of a damp cloth, indicating that the colouring was due to pollen. I think that is the correct solution as I found the same with a bird caught this year. This bird had very little colour on it, in fact I saw no really bright birds this year; the chestnut was not noticeable except in the hand, and was readily removed with a damp cloth. The colour on the birds I got last year did not wash out, not easily at any rate.

THE FIRE-CAP *(Cephalopyrus flammiceps)*, I saw for the first time in Bakloh in May, 1909, apparently on their way up the hill. They were on a flowering shrub with some White-eyes. I caught one to have a closer look at it. It was not nearly so lovely as another of that party, and others I have since seen in Dalhousie quite eclipsed this bird, which must have been in the moult. I was very tempted to keep some I caught, but at that time I was trying hard to avoid the great temptation to keep any insectivorous birds except the very easiest. Still, I regret my decision, as I fancy they would be no more difficult to keep than White-eyes, and they would have made a nice addition to the little collection Mr. Kennedy took home in March. The fact that the egg is not known would have proved an additional attraction to aviculturists. It summers in the hills, being common or fairly so at about 8,000 feet in Dalhousie.

ROUGH DESCRIPTION: Front of head flaming orange-red; upper plumage olive-yellow, brighter on the rump; wings and tail brown edged with yellow; sides of head, throat, and breast golden yellow, the chin suffused with bright red; remainder of lower plumage dull yellow. The female is duller and has no red on the head and chin. Length about 4 inches, tail 1 and one-third.

This is the only member we get of the *Liotrichinae* family, which contains many most desirable birds.

To be continued.

Book Notices and Reviews.

CANARIES, HYBRIDS, AND BRITISH BIRDS IN CAGE AND AVIARY.—Cassell and Co. In monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part XIII. Another very practical and interesting part, containing chapters, "The Border Fancy Canary,"—the Lizard Canary and "The London Fancy Canary." The text is terse and clear, and is illustrated with many figures, showing typical and defective birds as to exhibition points. The frontispiece is a good coloured plate, figuring the White-throat, Gold-crested Wren, Redstart, Blackcap and Nightingale. The part is a good one and certainly excellent value.

AERONAUTICAL CLASSICS.—No. 6. THE FLIGHT OF BIRDS. By Giovanni, A. Borelli. London, King, Sells, and Olding, Ltd. 27, Chancery Lane, W.C., 1s. net.

Though written in the interest of aeronautics, bird lovers will find much of interest in this excellent little booklet. The headings of the various sections are as under, and the text is illustrated with many diagramatic figures.

The wing structure and its component parts.
The order and manner wherin Birds move their wings during flight.
A Bird's centre of gravity must be low.

The quantity of air acted upon by the wings in flight is in shape of a solid sector swept out by a radius equal to the span of the wing.

Wherein is explained in what manner the air offers resistance to the stroke of the wings.

If the velocity wherewith the wings of a Bird in flight are beaten is equal to the velocity wherewith the underlying air recoils to the beat of the wing, the Bird remains in the same place.

Again, if the velocity wherewith the wings are beaten is greater than the velocity wherewith the underlying air recoils to the beat, the Bird will ascend, and the rate of its ascent will be equal to the difference between the two velocities.

The power of the muscles that beat the wings is greater by ten-thousand times than the weight of the Bird.

Wherein are set forth the reasons for the immense power of the wings

In what manner an oblique transverse force may propel straightly a body unaffected by the motion.

If a Bird suspended in the air strike with its outspread wings the undisturbed air with a motion perpendicular with the horizon, it will fly with a transverse movement parallel to the horizon.

Wherein is explained the way in which the horizontal flight of Birds is affected.

The use of the tail of the Bird is to direct the course of flight upwards and downwards; but not to the right and left.

How and by what means Birds, when flying, alter their course to the right or to the left.

If the body of the Bird A.C. be moved at an acquired speed through the air in a longitudinal direction from C towards A, and if while flying it bends its outstretched neck with its head B.A. towards the left side B.I. the course of the entire Bird is deflected towards B.I.

It does not appear possible that birds flying horizontally, can depart quickly from their course by the transverse flection of their head and neck.

How Birds without flapping their wings, can sometimes ride in the air for a short time not only horizontally, but also obliquely upward.

How the flying impetus acquired by a bird is checked on landing.

It is impossible that men should be able to fly craftily by their own strength.

The booklet runs into 40 pages, is well and clearly printed on good paper. The author deals with his subject in a terse and practical manner. The book is excellent value at the published price, and will be read with interest by bird-lovers, as well as by those interested in aeronautics.

BRITISH BIRDS IN THEIR HAUNTS, by the late Rev. C. A. Johns, B.A., F.L.S., The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.—5s.

This is a new edition (twelfth), and the following quotation from the perface clearly defines the Author's purpose:

> "The Author begs expressly to disclaim all idea of pro-
> "posing the present volume as a substitute for the comprehen-
> "sive work of Yarrell . . . . which must always remain the
> "indispensible book of reference for the British Ornithologist.
> "Yet he does venture to hope that he has provided the lover
> "of nature with a pleasant companion in his country walks,
> "and the young Ornithologist with a Manual that will supply
> "his present need and prepare him for the study of more
> "important works."

This the Author has certainly accomplished, and the result is a very readable and well got up book, the text profusly illustrated with woodcuts (drawn by Wolf and engraved by Whymper) and sixteen coloured plates of sufficient merit to clearly portray the birds figured—several species appear on each plate. A most useful SYNOPSIS OF GENERA follows the preface.

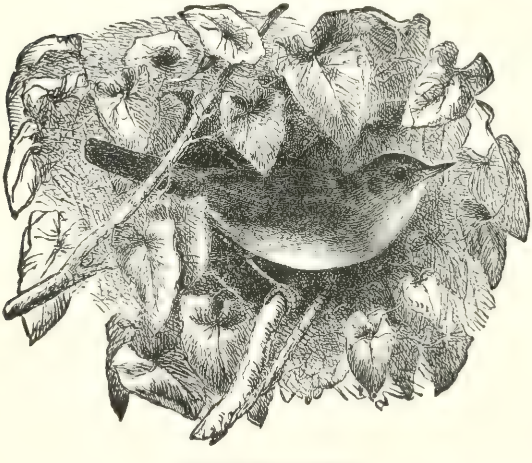
We can best give a general idea of the work by one or two quotations therefrom :—

THE GARDEN WARBLER.

Curruca hortensis.

"Upper parts greyish-brown, slightly tinged with olive; orbits white; below the ear a "patch of ash-grey; throat dull white; breast and flanks grey, tinged with rust colour; rest "of the underparts dull white. Length five inches and three-quarters; breadth eight inches "and a half. Eggs greenish-white speckled with two shades of greenish-brown."

"Though tolerably well dispersed throughout England, this "bird is by no means so abundant as the Blackcap, which it "resembles in size "and habits. Its "song is little if "at all inferior to "that of the bird "just named, and it "is far from im- "probable that some "of the sweet "strains for which "the Blackcap gets "credit, particular- "ly late in the "summer, may be "produced by the "Garden Warbler; "I have heard its "song so late as "the fifth of October. By some Authors it is called the Greater "Pettychaps, by others *Fauvette*, this latter name is by some "ornithologists applied to the group containing this bird, and "several allied species. Its nest and eggs are as like those "of the Blackcap as to be discriminated with difficulty."



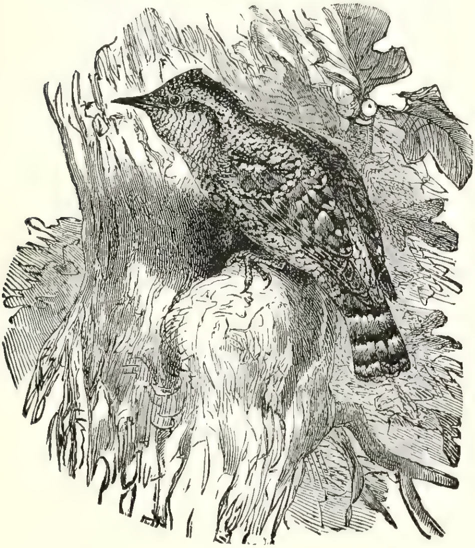
THE GARDEN WARBLER.

THE WRYNECK.

Yunx torquilla.

"Upper plumage reddish-grey, irregularly spotted and lined with brown and black; a "broad black and brown band from the back of the head to the back; throat and breast yel- "lowish-red, with dusky transverse rays; rest of under plumage whitish, with arrow shaped "black spots; outer web of the quills marked with rectangular alternate black and yellowish "red spots; tail feathers barred with black zigzag bands; beak and feet olive brown. Length "six inches and a half, breadth eleven inches. Eggs glossy white."

"The note of the Wryneck is unmusical, and is so peculiar "that it can be confounded with none of the natural sounds of "the country; a loud, "rapid, harsh cry on "one note, repeated "several times by a bird "about the size of a "lark may be referred "without hesitation to "the Wryneck. Yet it "is a pleasant sound "after all, for the un- "tuneful minstrel *is* the "same bird which is "known by the name "of "Cuckoo's Mate," "and so is associated "with May-days . . . . "This name it derives " . . . . . because it "both arrives and de- "parts with the Cuckoo. " . . . . . In habits "it bears no marked re- "semblance to the Woodpeckers; it is not much given to climbing "and never taps the trunks of trees; yet it does seek its "food on decayed trees and employs its long horney tongue for "that purpose. . . . . . It indeed, darts its tongue with in- "conceivable rapidity into an ant-hill and brings it out as rapidly "with the insects and their eggs adhering to its viscid point. "These constitute its principal food, so that it is seen more "frequently feeding on the ground than hunting on trees " . . . . Besides this, the proper call-note of the bird, it "utters, when disturbed in its nest, another which resembles a "hiss; whence, and partly, perhaps, on account of the peculiar "structure of its neck, it is sometimes called the Snake-bird. "Nest, properly speaking, it has none; it selects a hole in a "decaying tree and lays its eggs on the rotten wood . . . . . "The Wryneck is a common bird in the south-eastern counties "of England, and to the west as far as Somerset; but I have "never heard its note in Devon or Cornwall; it is rare also in "the northern counties.



THE WRYNECK.

The foregoing will indicate the scope of the work and its interesting and practical character. Though too large for the pocket, it is not unwieldy and certainly not too large to form a pleasant companion in many a country jaunt. To the young student of the birds of his native country, it should prove invaluable, and we cordially commend it to students of our indigenous species generally. *We are indebted to the publishers for the loan of blocks illustrating this review.*

LIST OF ANIMALS, GIZA ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS. 5s. (2nd Edition). By Stanley S. Flower, Director, National Printing Dept. Cairo.

This list, from the pen of our esteemed member is well arranged, comprehensive, practical, and interesting.

CONTENTS: List of plates; Preface; Remarks on Arabic names of animals; Notes on the system of nomenclature used in this list; Table of numbers of animals; Systematic list of the species and varieties of animals which have been exhibited alive in the Giza Zoological Gardens from the 6th of October, 1898, to the 6th of October, 1910.

Part I.—Mammals.
Part II.—Birds.
Part III.—Reptiles.
Part IV.—Batrachians.
Part V.—Fishes.
Part VI.—Invertebrates.

Alphabetical index of Genera.

There are twenty half-tone plates, reproduced from photos from life, as under:

Young Hippopotamus, male from East Africa (2 plates).
,, Rhinoceros, female. from Southern Sudan.
Wild Donkeys, female, from the Atbara.
Great Nuer Ox (3 plates).
Young Kudu, male, from Kordofan.
Kudu, female, from Kordofan.
Kordofan Kudu, male, bred in Giza.
Sabre-horned Oryx from Kordofan.
Defassa Waterback from Blue Nile.
Male Ibex—Capra nubiana.
Nubian Ibex with young kid.
Kordofan Giraffes
Young Blue Nile Giraffe, male.
Ant-Bear from Kordofan – Orycteropus æthiopicus.
Shoebill – Balaeniceps rex.
Marabou Storks on their nests.
Birds of Prey Cages.

The systematic list is very practically and instructively arranged—we quote a record to illustrate this, as typical of the whole:

Emberiza melanocephala Scopoli 1769.
Black-headed Bunting,
Le Roi des Ortolang, on le Crocote.
Der Kappenammer.
Habitat: Europe, Asia, Syria.

Year first exhibited 1907. Number of registered specimens 9. Maximum length of life of an individual specimen 2 years 3 m'ts and 3 days, and still alive. Number of specimens now living here 2.

At the annual stocktaking on October 6th, 1910, there were living in the gardens, 506 Mammals, 841 Birds, 231 Reptiles, 17 Batrachians, 193 Fishes. Birds are well represented and varied, as will be seen from the following table :

Passeres 386, Picariœ 11, Psittaci 58, Striges 12, Accipitres 35, Steganopodes 14, Herodiones 53, Anseres 64, Columbœ 35, Pterocletes 24, Gallinœ 58, Fulicariœ 10, Alectorides 17, Limicolœ 8, Gaviœ 2, Struthiones 4. Total 841.

The list is well printed and got up and is good value at the published price, 5s.

HOUSEHOLD PETS: Household Publishing Co., Ltd., 62-65 Avenue Chambers, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C. 1d. weekly.

A weekly journal of comparatively recent origin, dealing with Household pets generally. One of the earlier issues is before us, and contains sections for Dogs, Cats, Mice, Rabbits, Pigeons, Cage Birds, also anecdotes and notes, referring to animal life, and keeping in general. The Cage Bird Section contains an interesting article by Mr. F. Finn. There are also some notes on the Zoo, evidently from the same pen. **The** issue was comprehensive, practical, and of general interest.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: The season appears to have begun quite early with some of our members; as the following instances will show:—

CUTTHROAT *(Amadina fasciata).* Mr. T. G. Nicolson, Walton-on-Thames, informs me that he had young of this species on the wing on March 11th, in an unheated indoor (stable) flight. Here a number of species have been safely housed during the cold weather—Tanagers and a variety of Finches, Waxbills, etc.—losses have been practically nil. He also informs me that Bronze-wing Mannikins are incubating a clutch of eggs.

HYBRID DOVES (Turtle x Barbary). Mr. Suggitt, Cleethorpes, informed me that a young squab was hatched on March 4th, in his out-door aviary, a later report states that the young bird is on the wing and doing well.

DIAMOND DOVES: Dr. P. Gosse informs me that his pair have laid and are closely incubating.

HYBRID PARRAKEETS *(P. docilis x torquatus).* The Hon. and Rev. Canon Dutton informs me that he has three young Rose-ringed x Ring-necked Parrakeets hatched out, which are doing well, and there appears every prospect of their being fully reared.

From several aviaries come reports that Zebra, Ribbon and other common species are incubating; also several roomy and natural aviaries are in course of erection, and the season 1911 promises to be a very active one, and we also hope a successful one among our members.

THE NIGHTINGALE, ETC., IN ITALY: Our esteemed member, Mr. H. D. Astley, writing from Varenna, Lago di Como, on March 29th, among other matters, gives the following notes, which we take the liberty of publishing here:

> "Yesterday I heard a Nightingale; which is early even "for Italy—especially as the snow is low still on the surrounding "mountains, and the bird was singing at about 800 feet from "the lake, which is itself 600 feet above sea-level.
>
> "I also saw two or three House Martins on the 24th.
>
> "In the spring, a few Hoopoes are always to be seen in "my garden for a day or two, resting, before passing "further north.

AMIABILITY OF BULBULS, ETC.: Mrs. Mahon, says in a letter referring to her article and our note "Mr. Teschemaker "informs me that several pairs of this species will nest together in the same aviary," comments as follows:

The Bulbuls which killed my tame Red-whiskered Bulbul were not of the same species, but the Black-headed *(Molpastes bengalensis)*, I suspected a Red-crested Cardinal, and quite wrongfully placed it in confinement for a few weeks, when I caught the Black-heads "red-handed" in the act of killing a second Red-whiskered Bulbul. However, I find all Bulbuls mischievous, and quarrelsome with any other Bulbul during the nesting season; that is, when they are not actually hatching or feeding their families. The above notes coincide with our experience, and it would be of interest if others would record.

THE AVIARIES AT THE TRELOAR CRIPPLES' HOSPITAL AND COLLEGE: In response to our note in last issue (page 88) the following have been promised:

1 pair Green Budgerigars, Dr. J. Easton Scott.
1 pair Silverbills, Dr. J. Easton Scott.
1 pair Green Budgerigars, Mr. J. H. Henstock.
1 pair Hybrid Mannikins, Mr. W. T. Page.

1 pair Turtle x Barbary Doves, Mr. W. T. Page.
1 Hybrid Harlequin x Rain Quail, Mr. W. T. Page.

Mr. H. D. Astley has sent a cheque for one guinea towards the purchase of birds.

It would be rather nice for the F.B.C. to stock these aviaries and we should be glad to hear from any member willing to assist with the gift of birds. Any of the following would be most welcome: Cockateels, Rosella and Red-rump Parrakeets; any species of Grassfinches, Singing Finches, Avadavats, Waxbills, Mannikins, Cardinals, and Quails. Also Diamond and Passerine Doves, and Australian Crested Pigeons. The Hon. Editor will have much pleasure in arranging for despatch and reception of the birds, if intending donors will communicate with him.

A RARE AMAZON: Our esteemed member Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, has recently acquired an almost if not quite unique Golden-crowned Amazon *(Chrysotis octeroptera)*, of which she kindly sends the following description: Beak white, shading to horn colour at tip of upper mandible; forehead white; crown rich golden-yellow; skin round eyes white; eye region yellow; cheeks blue; breast light green, washed with blue (very irridescent, glistens like a Tanager); flanks yellow; back and wings are variegated with rich blood-red and dark blue; tail feathers green with black tips; underside of tail lovely sky blue and shining blue-green; eyes almost ruby-red; feet horn colour. He (for I take it to be a young male) is rather small for an Amazon, but he is in fine condition—he laughs, crys, and chatters in French a few names and sentences. Mrs. Miller states that she alone is allowed to handle him, and that he fights all others. We shall make further reference to this rare species in our next issue.

Correspondence.

RE POST MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

Sir,—In your last issue of "B.N." Mr. H. V. Johnson asks two questions, viz:—

1.—Ought not the post mortem examinations to help us to cater for these birds?

2.—Do they?

If Mr. Johnson will kindly explain to what he intends these conundrums to refer, I shall be most happy to answer them to the best of my ability.

At present, I don't quite understand their purport.

HENRY GRAY.

THE MAGAZINE.

Sir,—Re the suggestion (in February issue) that members should pay the cost of postage on the Magazine, I think it an excellent one, and should be very pleased to do so, but I am unable to promise much in the way of a donation, but I will do my best.

W. E. AUSTIN.

STRAY NOTES.

In the G.F.W. for December 22 of last year, there is a most interesting article by Dr. Otto, on the "Wonders of Radium." He considers that Radio-therapy would be of great value in the treatment of certain diseases of valuable cage-birds, particularly Parrots, and describes the case of an Amazon, which had been ill for some time with an enormously swollen crop, and liability to frequent choking fits. These eventually became so severe that death seemed imminent, so exposure to radium emanations was tried, and with the happiest results—total disappearance of the swelling in two months, and a complete cure within six.

(Dr.) E. H.

In another number Nightingale-song records for the gramophone are advertised. How interesting a series of such records, both of British and foreign birds would be!

(Dr.) E. H.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. *must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.*

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st *of any month.*

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

REDRUMP (♂). W. D. Marmont, Gloucester. Sorry to say this bird died of *true* bird-fever. The liver and spleen were crammed with very small yellowish nodules. Isolate birds singly in cages, cleanse, disinfect, aviaries, etc. It is very highly contagious. From whence did you introduce it?

KING PARRAKEET. Miss M. Bousfield, Bournemouth. This handsome bird died of *true* bird-fever. The liver and spleen were crammed with innumerable small yellowish nodules. These organs were very much enlarged. Have you purchased any fresh birds?

Have you lost any other birds? As a rule fanciers only send birds for post mortem examination when they have lost several or many. Post mortem examination of every bird should be made as it would put fanciers' on their guard as soon as the disease was detected. This disease is very prevalent in many aviaries in various parts of the kingdom. There is no doubt it is spread by the purchase of birds from dirty bird-shops or from infected aviaries. Some shops are so filthy and the birds are so crowded that they stand as an indicator to the way some sanitary authorities do their duty and to the vigilance of the R.S.P.C.A.

It may not be considered *active* cruelty to keep birds in a filthy, overcrowded, narrowly confined, or insanitary condition; but it should be looked upon as *passive* cruelty to submit them to such treatment and thus unnecessarily endanger their happiness and destroy their lives by the thousand. Such an influential society as the F.B.C. should take steps to put down this form of cruelty.

The majority of deaths arising in unacclimatised birds are not due to contagious disease but to auto-infection set up by misery, excitement, fatigue, or exposure to inclement weather. Susceptibility to auto-infection or infection arising from within the bird's own body varies not only according to the species but also to the individual. The more highly coloured the bird, especially of the finch-tribe, greater the susceptibility. Easterly, or north-easterly winds account for many deaths; they lower the birds' temperature and upset the defensive system, and thus allow the normal microbes of the intestine to gain the blood stream, to infect the body and to cause death.

CUTTHROAT (♀). C. H. Robinson, Yorks. Death was due to pneumo-enteritis.

GRASSFINCH (♀). Miss Alfreda B. Smith, Calford. Cause of death was pneumonia. This complaint has killed hundreds of the recently imported Australian Finches. Yours, however, has been in your possession since last September, and kept in an indoor aviary

MASKED GRASSFINCHES (pair). W. T. Rogers, Brentwood. These two birds were killed by pneumonia, which has destroyed hundreds of such like birds last week. Don't purchase birds when easterly winds are prevailing, especially in the spring of the year.

HOODED SISKIN (♂). Miss E. F. Chawner, Hants. This bird died of chronic pneumonia, and an enlarged liver. Continual artificial heat or none at all is better than intermittent warming of a shelter which tries the heat regulating apparatus of such a delicate bird kept in confinement. There is no doubt in my mind the bird caught a chill on the journey. Bird diseases are easier to prevent than to cure.

YELLOW BUDGERIGAR. (Countess von Hahn). This bird had a very much enlarged liver. No doubt the abscess had something to do with it. In future, when you notice such swellings paint them with tincture of iodine daily and give 5 grains of Iodide of Potassium and 30 grains sulphate of magnesia in two ounces of drinking water. Of course, a bird undergoing this treatment would have to be caged and no plain water given until the bird had finished up the medicated water.

VIOLET TANAGER (♂). (Thos. G. Nicalson). The bird died from pneumonia. His testicles were enlarged, indicating that the sexual function was becoming active, when a bird is more predisposed to develop a disease of such as this one died. In some species the males are more susceptible, in others the females. I do not believe egg-food when fresh is injurious to birds; nor does it cause bird-fever of which your bird did not suffer. There are a great number of diseases. Bird-fever is only one; it somewhat resembles acute tuberculosis of the liver and spleen, which is a comparatively rare disease in birds.

GREEN BUDGERIGAR (♂). D. Croisdale Kirk, Cardiff. The cause of death was hæmorrhage under the cranium.

ST. HELENA WAXBILL (♂). (Capt. Sherard Reeves, Lincoln). The bird was in a good condition, but death was due to pneumonia affecting both lungs. It is difficult to prevent this malady although a bird may be bred in our climate. It is a very common disease in our native birds, when kept in confinement, especially out of doors.

W. R. TEMPLE, Bucks. Although draughts are a common cause of pneumonia, this disease may arise from changeable weather, even though a bird may be kept in a temperature of 60 deg. to 65 deg. Easterly on north-easterly winds or damp chilly weather are a fruitful predisposing factor in the causation of pneumonia.

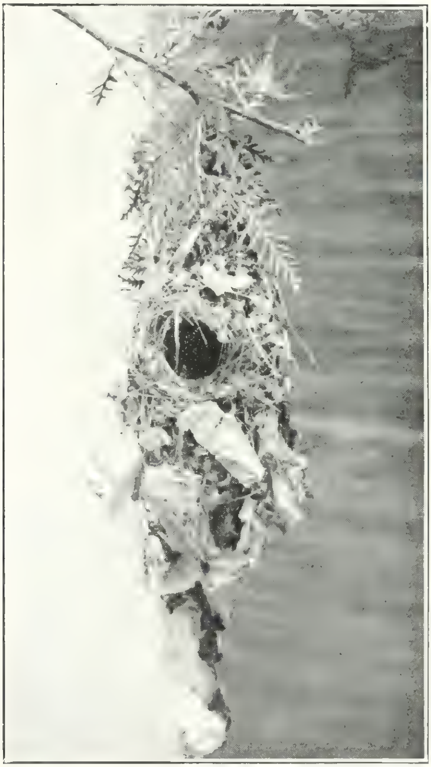
PHILIP GOSSE, M.R.C.S., Hants. No birds have arrived.

Answered by Post; A. Sutcliffe (2), Mrs. Turner Turner, H. Willford, W. R. Temple, H. L. Sich.

Erratum—Re report on Superb Tanager (Mrs. Easton Scott) "malute" should read *malate*. H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

A CONSIGNMENT OF RARE INDIAN BIRDS.

Just on going to press, I was privileged to see about 30 birds, which landed on April 12th last, but for the gale and blizzard which raged during the last few days of the voyage the consignment would have been an unique one. The birds consist of Giant Barbets *(M. marshallorum)*, Blue-cheeked Barbet, Crested Black Tits, Grey-headed Ouzels, Black Bulbul, Streaked Laughing Thrushes, Blue-fronted Redstart, Dyhal, Orange-headed Ground Thrushes, and Rosefinches, and White-eyes *(Z. palpebrosa)*. Seventy bodies were thrown overboard between Gibraltar and the mouth of the Thames, consisting of Sunbirds, Flycatchers, Shamas, Green Bulbuls, Bush-Chats, Robins, etc. Lieut. Kennedy certainly met with very hard luck during the last stages of the voyage. A full account of the consignment will appear in next issue.



Sunbird's Nest

From photo kindly sent by D. Dewar, I.C.S

Note the dark area at right side of photo, is the trunk of tree deodar on which nest was built.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Indian Sunbirds.

BY DOUGLAS DEWAR, I.C.S., F.Z.S.

Sunbirds or Honeysuckers as they are sometimes called, are to the tropics of the Old World what Humming Birds are to the warmer portions of the New World.

Sunbirds are tiny feathered exquisites which vary in length from 3½ to 5 inches, including a bill of considerable length for the size of the bird.

They are numbered among the most familiar birds of India, owing to their abundance, and their partiality to gardens. They occur all the year round in the warmer parts of the peninsula, but leave the coldest regions for a short time during the winter.

Twenty-nine species of Sunbirds are described as belonging to the Indian Empire, but most of them are only local in their distribution. Three species, however, have a considerable range. These are the *Arachnechthra asiatica*, the Purple Sunbird, which occurs throughout India and Burma, ascending the hills to 5,000 feet; *A. zeylonica*, the Purple-rumped Sunbird, which is the commonest Sunbird in all parts of Southern India, except Madras, where the third species *A. lotenia*—Loten's Sunbird, is perhaps more abundant.

The genus *Arachnechthra* is characterised by a great difference in appearance between the sexes. The hens of all the species are very like one another, all are homely-looking birds; dull greenish-brown above and pale yellow below. The cocks of the various species are arrayed in metallic colours as resplendent as those that decorate humming birds. The cock Purple-rumped Sunbird is thus described by Mr. E. H. Aitken.

"Seen at a distance and in a dull light, it is a tiny bird of "a dark brown colour, except on the breast and lower parts, which "are yellow. But see it at close quarters, with the sun shining "on it as its admiring mate sees it! The top of its head glitters "with a hue which Jerdon defines as "bright metallic glossy "green," while Mr. Oates calls it 'metallic lilac.' Perhaps one "looked at it from the front and the other from behind. Its "throat and the whole of its back glow with the tint of an "amethyst, the shoulders and wings are of the richest maroon-"red (Mr. Oates says 'dull crimson') and the tail is black."

The cocks of the Purple and Loten's species are very much alike but may be readily distinguished by the fact that the slender curved bill of Loten's is considerably larger than that of its cousin. How shall I describe these beautiful birds? In my volume *Indian Birds* I classed them among black birds because they look black when seen at a distance, but I stated that they are in reality dark purple; and have been taken to task for not classing them among the blue birds. The fact of the matter is that these birds cannot be said to be of any colour. Like shot silk their hue depends upon the angle at which the sun's rays fall upon them. In the sunlight their plumage glistens like a new silk hat, and sometimes the sheen looks lilac, and others green.

The habits of all three species are exactly alike, so what is said of one applies equally well to the others. I will take *A asiatica* as my theme, as it is the most widely distributed. It is the only Sunbird that occurs at Allahabad, where I am now stationed, and as our invaluable Editor informs me that he is having a coloured plate of this species made for the magazine.

The cock Sunbird is a beautiful singer; its song is very like that of a canary, but a little less soft. As I write a cock is pouring forth his lay vigorously from the summit of a tree in the compound. The cock Sunbird does everything vigorously. He is always literally bubbling over with energy. Although he eats tiny insects, he lives mainly on the nectar of flowers, which appears to be a most stimulating diet. He is also very quarrelsome, and he always puts me in mind of the gaily dressed young buck of the seventeenth century, who was ready to draw his sword at the slightest provocation.

Sunbirds have long, slender curved bills and tubular tongues, hence they are admirably equipped to secure the honey hidden away in the calices of flowers. As the little birds insert their heads into the blossoms, they get well dusted with pollen, so that like bees and some other insects they probably play an important part in the cross-fertilization of flowers; but they do not hesitate to probe the sides of large flowers with their sharp bills, and thus secure the honey. It is pretty to watch the Sunbirds feeding. They are as acrobatic as titmice and strike the most extraordinary attitudes in their attempts to procure honey. When there is no convenient *point d'appui* they hover like Humming Birds on rapidly vibrating wings, and while so doing explore with their long tongues the recesses of some flowers. To quote Aitken:

> "between whiles they skip about, slapping their sides "with their tiny wings, spreading their tails like fans, and ringing out their cheery refrain. As they pass from one tree to "another they traverse the air in a succession of bounds and "sportive spirals."

Verily the existence of a Sunbird is a happy one!

The nest of the Sunbird is one of the most wonderful pieces of architecture in the world, and it is the work of the hen alone. While she is working like a Trojan her gay young spark of a husband, is drinking riotously of nectar! The nest is a hanging one and is usually suspended from a branch of a bush or a tree, and not unfrequently from the rafter of a verandah of an inhabited bungalow; Sunbirds show little fear of man.

The nest is commenced by cobwebs being wound round and round the branch from which it will hang. Cobweb is the cement most commonly employed by birds. To this, pieces of dried grass, slender twigs, fibres, roots or other material are added and made to adhere by the addition of more cobweb.

The completed nest (*see plate*) which usually hangs in a most conspicuous place, often passes for a small mass of rubbish, that has been pitched into a bush. It is a pear-shaped structure, with an opening at one side, near the top. Over the entrance hole a little porch projects, which seems to keep out the sun and rain when the nest is exposed to them. Having completed the dried grass, fibre, and twig work, the bird, in the words of Aitkin:

> "turns ragman and scours the country for scraps of rubbish. "Fragments of bark, moss, lichens, withered petals of flowers, tags "of white silk from the nests of Red Ants, the conglomeration "pellets of chewed sawdust with which wood-boring catterpillars

“ conceal the entrances to their burrows, anything in short that “ looks old and shabby, is pounced upon and brought home and “ carefully stuck about the outside of the nest with shreds of cob- “ web, until the birds feel that they have made their future home “ a thoroughly disreputable object, like nothing so much as the “ unsightly collections of rubbish which are often seen gathered “ about the ruins of the deserted web of some large garden spider, “ and this in fact is just what you are meant to take it for. “ Finally the nest is well stuffed inside with silk cotton, and “ the hen bird settles down to her maternal duties, cosy and “ secure, with the chin resting on the window sill, so that she “ can see the passers-by.”

This admirable account was written of *A. zeylonica* but every word of it applies equally to *A.asiatica*. Once a Sunbird of the latter species built a nest in my garden at Lahore, which she literally covered with the paper shavings that are used to pack tight the biscuits in Huntley and Palmer's tins. When I saw this unsightly object hanging from a bush I was about to upbraid the *Khitunatgar* for being so untidy as to throw the paper shavings on a bush. However, on walking up to the spot I found that the shavings had been placed there by the lady Sunbird; her sharp little eye had caught sight of them as they lay in the dustbin, and she had seized upon them as a suitable covering for her nursery!

Writing of *A. asiatica* Mr. R. M. Adams says:

“ A pair that built in front of my office at Kurwool in an “ Acacia-tree had the most extraordinary nest I have ever seen. “ It was ornamented with bits of blotting paper, twine, and old “ service stamps that had been left lying about. The whole “ structure was most compactly bound together with cobwebs, “ and had a long string of caterpillar excrement wound round it. “ This excrement had most probably fallen on to a cobweb, and “ had stuck to it, and the cobweb had afterwards been transported “ in strips to the nest.”

“ It is curious how fond these birds are of tacking on “ pieces of paper and here and there a bright-coloured feather “ from a Paraquet or a Roller on the outside of their nests “ When in Agra, a bird of this species built a nest on a loose “ piece of thatch cord in my verandah, and on the side of the “ nest stuck on like a sign-board was a piece of a torn-up letter, “ with ‘ My dear Adam ’ on it.

Mr. R. W. Morgan says of this species:

The Purple cock apparently thinks his wedding garment “ too expensive to be worn the whole year round, for after nesting “ he doffs it, and assumes funeral plumage, retaining only a purple

"streak from chin to stomach as a mark of his sex . . . . . .
"I well remember one bird which came to the Museum compound
"after breeding, to change his plumage: he kept very much to
"two or three trees, singing, apparently, from one particular twig,
"and even when in undress he kept up his song."

"I have once at least seen two males on the same day,
"one in summer plumage, and the other in full breeding plumage."

I raised the question of the seasonal change in plumage of the cock of this species in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society some time ago, but elicited no information

Here is one of the many questions which the aviculturist is better able to answer than either the field naturalist or the museum student, and I trust that what I have written may lead to the question being settled as to whether the cock *A. asiatica* undergoes a regular second change of plumage.

TREATMENT IN CAPTIVITY: The above interesting article would be in a measure incomplete in a Journal like *Bird Notes* without some remarks as to how to keep the species. The following remarks are my recollections of a conversation I had with our esteemed member, Mr. C. T. Maxwell, who exhibited a specimen in full colour at the L.P.O.S. Show at the Crystal Palace in February last, the bird had then been in his possession about ten months. When it came into his possession it was either a young bird or out of colour, when just beginning to change its garment it was exhibited at the L.C.B.A. at the Horticultural Hall, in November, 1910, and the fact of Mr. Maxwell being able to get it into the exquisite condition in which it was staged at the Palace Show, abundantly demonstrated the excellence of his methods.

It occupied a roomy cage, in which it was perfectly contented and happy, always singing merrily during bright weather. It was fed on syrup-sop and ripe fruit.

Syrup sop : I did not ask Mr. Maxwell for full details but he told me it consisted of boiling water, Nestlè's milk, honey, Mellin's Food, and crumbled sponge-cake. The fruit it liked best was Tangerine oranges, though I gathered it was not confined to the one variety.

Of course this is a species which requires much care, but if it were imported more frequently it would soon be as freely kept as Sugarbirds.

I sincerely hope our esteemed members, Messrs. C. T. Maxwell and L. W. Hawkins will send us notes on keeping Sunbirds in captivity.—Ed.

Aviary Episodes—1911.

BY DR. J. EASTON SCOTT.

[I must preface these notes by stating that they were not written as an article, but merely as a private letter on May 8th from which I might glean a note or so for the Editorial column. I am acquainted with the aviaries and so details may be lacking, but these I shall clear up as a descriptive article will appear in a near issue. I am sure Dr. Scott will pardon my publishing intact these chatty happenings of the opening of the season—especially interesting because of their informality, and certainly too good to be split up into stray notes.—Ed.]

This has been a sort of general birthday among the birds. To begin with the Robins (which by the way will take worms from Mrs. Scott's hand as she feeds the birds in the aviary) have been hatched out. We almost number them among "the birds" though they are wild—their nest is in a tree by the new aviary. Well, that, by the way—but inside No. 2 (the new aviary) two Zebra Finches, two Cordon Bleus, and two Pileated Finches all left the egg to-day. No doubt the numbers will be increased by to-morrow. Zebra Finches nested in a husk in the house. I think there are still two eggs in the nest along with the young. Pileated Finches nested in a Laurel bush—an open, utterly inadequate nest, with three eggs. The eggs almost filled it, so I expect history will repeat itself, viz., when the young grow sufficiently big they will fall out. I don't like to interfere by trying to put anything on in the way of additions, in case they desert. Two young hatched out to-day, and they are being well parented so far.

Cordon Bleus nested in another Laurel bush. There are four eggs, I think, but, it is a lovely little domed nest, with such a tiny opening that I can scarcely get one finger in. These birds are father and daughter. They tried nesting several weeks ago, but nothing was hatched, better success attended them this time, and two young left the egg to-day.

Orange-breasted Waxbills have their nest in an ivy covered stump—in appearance the nest is like the Cordons'

—quite covered in and absolutely lined with feathers, and with a very small opening in the side. They have five eggs, and both birds sit constantly and simultaneously! Certainly I don't think one could cover five eggs, so they cuddle in together and cover them that way!

Green Cardinals got the length of two eggs in a box under the eaves; in exactly the same position as last year, but in the other aviary. Unfortunately the young bird was left with them, and though he (or she, whichever it is) helped all he could in building the nest by carrying grass and sticks, I fancy he unsettled them. At any rate both eggs were thrown out of the nest the day after the second egg was laid. I have transferred the young bird to No. 3 aviary, and now they are building again. This time on the *top* of a box next to the one they were inside. Not a very good site, and so far only the sticks are laid with which they always make the foundations of their nest. But old cocky has begun to sing again—which he gave up after the eggs were destroyed—so I fancy they mean to get to business again soon.

Neglected warnings! Last year I used some long hairy stuff as nesting material, and it resulted in disaster, a bird getting hung upon it, and several also warned me against using it, yet when my man hung some up again I let it remain, again a disaster. A Masked Grassfinch, mated to a Parson Finch, got hung by the leg out of a coco-nut husk, and was dead when I discovered her. They had eggs!!

The Aurora Finches (Crimson-winged Waxbills) have made a nest in a box under the eaves and the hen is often in it, but no eggs are laid as yet.

The Tanagers (Scarlet and Blue), also the Red-throated Blue Sugarbirds are all out in No. 3 aviary, except the Black Tanagers, which are in No. 1. The latter are very fussy, and I think may nest when the Budgerigars are moved. The Scarlets are very chummy, and the Blues are carrying fluff and other stuff about—and I am hoping!

The Silverbills are also nesting, I think, but these do not get much notice now.

The Cuban Finches built a nest as soon as they were put in No. 2 aviary, but the hen was not in very good form. No eggs were laid, so I took the cock away and gave him a real good hen, in No. 3 aviary, and they are very busy nesting too. They renovated an old open nest of last year in a Laurel bush, and domed it, and no doubt will get to eggs before long, for both are very fit. One of my reasons for transferring the little cock Cuban from No. 2 was that he would do nothing but bully the Green Cardinal cock! I even have suspicions about him and the loss of the Cardinal eggs. It was the most impudent episode I ever saw—to watch that small creature "going for" a bird ten times his size!

Sorry I have had no time to give a coherent account of the various nestings, but thus early in the season the performances of the birds seem to me distinctly hopeful.

The Aviaries at the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

These aviaries are a handsome structure with the flights of iron framing, and strong link netting, and the houses or inner compartments substantially built of wood, with tiled roofs and well lighted—as regards the general arrangement the photo reproduction and sketch plan indicate these pretty fully, and call for but little comment.

Originally constructed for Waders, the aviary consisted of three bays, but one of these has been taken down and replaced by a wooden shed, and the whole interior remodelled to fit them for Finches and Parrakeets.

It may be well to remark here, that the photo plan of aviary should be of general interest and use, as a similar erection could be easily constructed with wood framing and ordinary half-inch mesh wire netting.

The features to be emphasised are the roomy and well lighted houses, and the natural flights. The Houses: It will be seen that these are of sufficient extent to accommodate the birds during exceptionally severe weather, without their being turned into the flight at all. The structures are light and airy, and are thickly lined all round with twiggy branches, supplying ample cover for the birds, and causing them no restraint during such periods that the weather conditions necessitated

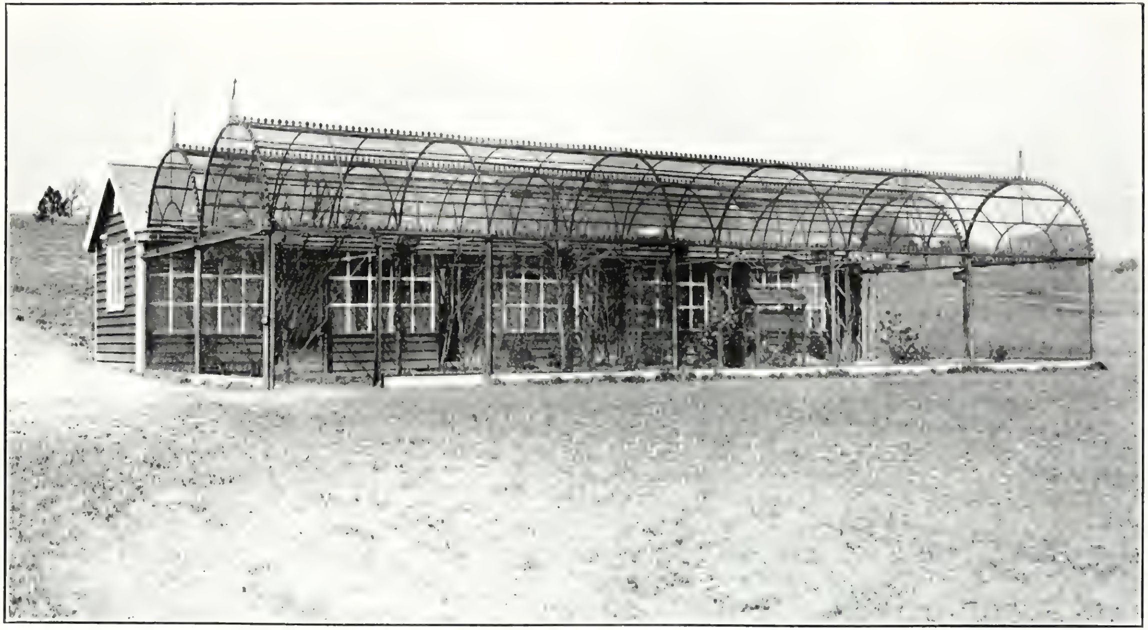
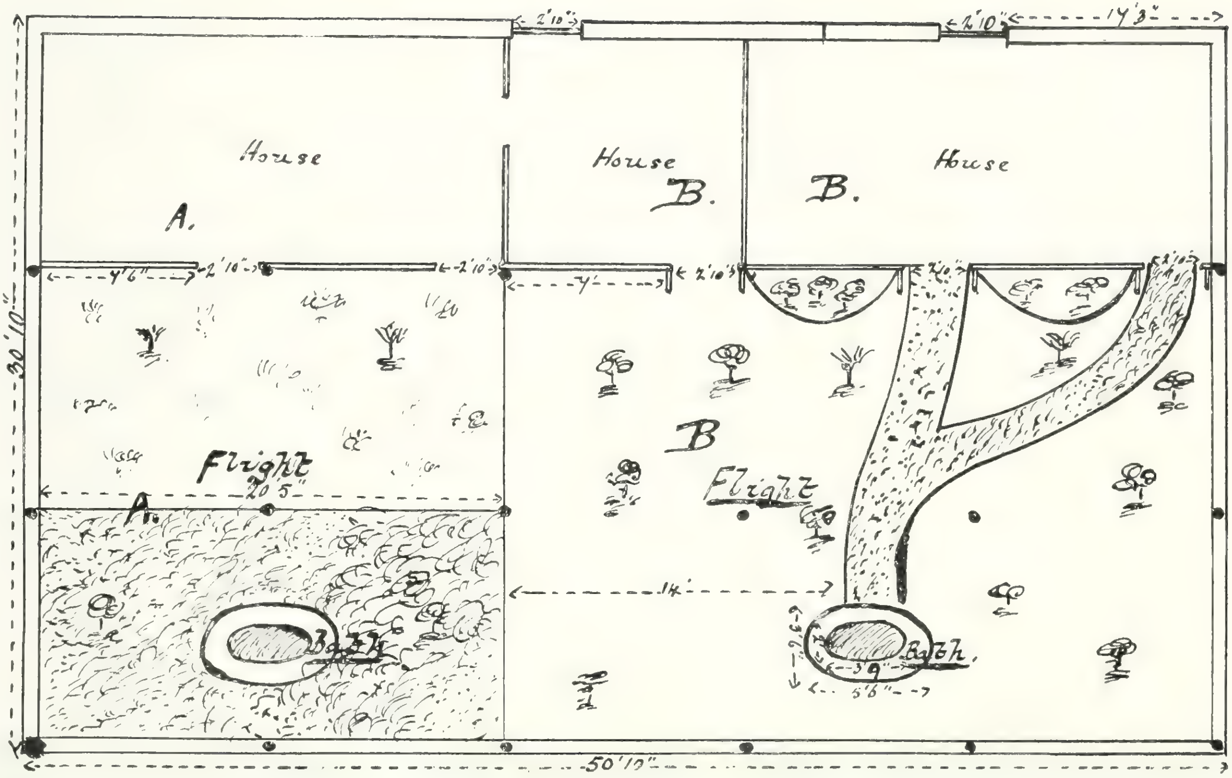


Photo by the Sport and General Illustrations Co.

The Aviaries at the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton, Hants.


2'10"
2'10"
14'3"
House
House
House
A.
B.
B.
4'6"
2'10"
2'10"
7'
2'10"
2'10"
2'10"
30'10"
Flight
20'5"
A.
B
Flight
14'
Bath
Bath
3'9"
5'6"
3'6"
50'10"

Ground Plan of the Aviaries at the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton, Hants.

them being confined to the inner houses. I would point out that the proportion of shelter to flight is a good one.

The Flights: A reference to the sketch plan will show not merely the general arrangement, but also the trees and bushes are roughly indicated. The shaded areas both in A (Parrakeet aviary), and B. (Finch aviary), indicate paths and areas covered with gravel, the other areas are grass. The inner and outer standards to framing are indicated so "." and at each of these, and also the five rustic arches over the entrances to inner compartments are planted Rambler Roses, and other creepers, which when established will provide, along with the various bushes, etc., abundance of natural cover, and the aviaries should certainly prove a success. The baths are constructed of concrete, floated smooth with cement, and are shallow yet of ample size, and while little danger of weak nestlings or the smallest Waxbill getting drowned, yet there is ample bathing accommodation for birds the size of a Thrush. Besides providing ample natural cover for nesting purposes, a number of nest receptacles of various designs have been hung both in the inner houses and flights—also the feeding hoppers and other details for the convenience of aviary attendant and the comfort of the birds, are very complete. The flights need a year to mature and then will not only fully meet the requirements of the feathered occupants, but also be very effective from the spectacular point of view also.

A. The Parrakeet aviary has a flight which is roughly twenty feet square, and the inner compartment twenty feet by ten feet. It has been arranged to accommodate Budgerigars, Lovebirds, Cockateels; Ringnecked and Rosella Parrakeets, among which certain pugnacious species of Thrushes and Troupials must take their chance.

B. The Finch aviary has been arranged to accommodate Finches, Mannikins, Buntings, Grosbeaks, Waxbills, and such Bulbuls and larger species of sufficiently amiable demeanour, to be kept with them; also Quails, Doves, and Pigeons.

It is for these aviaries that I have been soliciting birds from members, and I certainly hope that there will be a sufficient response that the aviaries can be fairly stocked, without entrenching on the funds of the institution, and also I hope by members of F.B.C.

It has fallen to my lot to arrange the re-modelling and fitting, and I hope the foregoing notes will be of some general practical interest to members in general, as well as to indicate that any birds sent will have hygienic, comfortable, and natural quarters, in which to disport themselves, and I hope reproduce their kind.

In another portion of the Magazine (under Editorial) will be found a list of birds, either sent or promised, and it will be seen that more are still needed.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 73.

Chalcopelia afra. RUFOUS-WINGED DOVE.

Range. Tropical Africa. (H.L.)

This Dove is commonly known as the "Emerald Dove," but this is a bad name (except no doubt for advertisement purposes), as it is based merely on the presence of a small spot of dark green (not even bright green, and the spot too, is more often dark blue) on the upper surface of each wing; these spots can by no means be made to even suggest an emerald or its colour, and besides, they are so little conspicuous as to be hardly visible at a few yards distance. On the other hand, the epithet "rufous-winged" is a very happy one as the light brown under surface of the wings, so conspicuous in flight, is the bird's most characteristic feature.

These Doves are common throughout the Gambia and are haunters of the bush, not of the cultivated areas or villages. They spend much of their time and obtain their food (mainly grass-seeds) on the ground, but roost and nest in bushes and low trees. When disturbed they rise with a loud, quite partridge-like whirr and fly into shelter with rapid darting flight. Their note is a quadrisyllabic coo, which is commonly translated into the words, "Better-go-home," Better-go-home," an accurate, but an irritating and too appropriate a rendering when one is coming wearily home after an evening with the gun when one has missed everything one has fired at. The Mandingo name is "Suntukunta Puràh."

Description. Crown clear blue-grey, rest of upper surface pale sepia brown crossed on the rump by two bars of much darker brown. Wing-coverts and quills chocolate-brown; on some of the inner coverts are one or two circular spots of metallic dark blue or bottle-green. Tail-coverts and tail brown, intermediate in shade between that of the wings and mantle; tail feathers tipped with black, the outer pair with white bases also. Below brown washed with vinous, paler on the chin and belly. Under surface of wings bright rufous. Iris dark brown; eyelids slate-grey. Bill brown washed with purple, legs purplish brown. Length 8½ inches.

Œna capensis. CAPE DOVE.

Range. Ethiopian region. Madagascar. *(H.L.).*

This well-known long-tailed little Dove is not uncommon here, though they are rather locally distributed and never seen in such large numbers as most of our other Doves. Nearly all of them leave us during the rains and return again about the time of the millet-harvest or soon after. Each year I generally see the first Cape Doves of the season at the end of November or beginning of December. They frequent open country, especially the cultivated and cleared areas round the towns, find their food (millet-grains, grass and other seeds) on the ground and are always seen in pairs or parties of two or more pairs. The male and female are most devoted to each other, following one another about on the ground, and when one flies off it is almost immediately followed by its mate. On the ground they walk very rapidly, while in the air their flight is extremely fast and arrow-like,—in fact when on the wing they look very like big arrow-heads. Their note is a deep melancholy coo. Among the Mandingoes they are known as "Moro-puràh," which literally means "the strict Mahomedan Dove."

The sexes differ in plumage. In the male the front of head, face, chin, throat and upper breast are black, the rest of head, neck and upper wing-coverts French grey, the back pale brown with two dark brown bands separated by a dirty white one across the rump. Wings brown edged with black and with a patch of metallic blue on the outer webs of some of the inner feathers. Upper tail-coverts dark grey, tail feathers black with grey bases. Lower breast and belly white, under tail-coverts black. Under wing-coverts brown with the angle of the wing black. Iris brown; bill purplish brown tipped with yellow; legs dull crimson. Length 10 inches, of which the tail forms nearly half. The female has no black mask, the forehead and breast being greyish white and the crown and nape brown like the back. The bill is dark brown without any yellow tip and the feet are much less red than in the male

Besides these Doves there is another species which I know by sight here but which so far I have been unable to identify. It is very rare here,—I have only seen three specimens, the last of which I was able to skin and send home for identification, but have heard nothing further about it as yet.

This bird may possibly be a hybrid between the Senegal Dove and the Black Pigeon; when flying it looks very like and almost as big as one of the latter, as its wings and tail are very long compared with those of other small Doves, although when measured its length is very little more than theirs is, namely, a shade over eleven inches, as against ten. Its plumage on the other hand is somewhat suggestive of the Senegal Dove. The head and neck are blue-grey washed with mauve, the mantle duller grey; wing coverts yellow bronze, each feather with a triangular black centre; flights dark slate grey with light blue edges. Tail slate tipped with white. Below, chin and throat like the head, breast dull grey, belly and under tail-coverts white. Round the neck is a half collar of black feathers with white tips. Iris light hazel; bill slate; legs dull crimson pink. The bare skin round the eye the same colour as the legs.

(To be continued).

Foreign Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

(Continued from page 77)

Pectoral Euphonia *(E. pectoralis):* A few of this species were imported in 1910. A short account of a pair of these appears in Vol. VIII., p. 155, by Mr. T. R. Hadley, who describes the cock as quite fearless, and constantly singing a very scrappy song, which he winds up with a snap or two of the bill. A very handsome species.

Adult male: Plumage very sleek and glossy. Upper parts dark navy-blue, with a greeny tinge showing on neck and back in some lights; throat and middle breast dark navy-blue; sides of breast rich saffron-yellow; abdomen and under-tail-coverts rich dark chestnut; bill black, with a slaty sheen at base; legs and feet black. Total length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tail $1\frac{1}{2}$.

The female is an olive-green bird, with patches of ashy-olive on the nape, throat and breast; vent rufous.

It is a native of the wooded regions of S.E. Brazil.

Black-bellied Euphonia *(E. cayana).*

Unknown to English aviculture.

Adult male: Shining bluish-black, with patches of bright yellow on each side of breast; under wing-coverts and inner margins of flights white; bill black; legs and feet brownish-black. Total length 4 inches, tail $1\frac{3}{8}$.

The female is greenish-olive above and ashy-olive below; a patch of ashy-olive on the nape; sides of breast and flanks olive-yellow.

Habitat. Cayenne, Guiana and Lower Amazonia (B.M.C.)

SECTION V. Upper surface dark olive-green or plumbeous-olive.

GOULD'S EUPHONIA *(E. gouldi).*

Unknown to English aviculture.

Adult male: Upper surface glossy bronze-green, with fore-half of crown yellow; under surface of body olive-green, with middle of abdomen and vent chestnut, and sides of abdomen lightly flecked with yellow; bill lead-colour; legs and feet brown. Total length 3½ inches, tail 1⅛.

Female: Duller, but similar to the male, save that the front is deep rufous, and the under surface yellowish-olive.

Habitat: Southern Mexico and Central American Isthmus down to Costa Rica (B.M.C.).

BLACK AND GREEN EUPHONIA *(E. mesochrysa):* I have given the above trivial name to this species from the distinctive markings of the wing and tail-feathers, viz., blackish, edged with green.

Unknown to English aviculture.

Adult male: Upper surface glossy bronze-green, with a patch of darker green on the nape, and broad frontal band of yellow; under surface greenish-yellow, with the middle of abdomen and vent rich orange-yellow; underside of tail ashy-brown; bill lead-colour; legs and feet palish brown. Total length 3¾ inches, tail 1 and 1.3.

Female: Similar to the male, but lacks the yellow-frontal-band and her abdomen is ashy-buff.

Habitat: Colombia, Ecuador and Peru (B.M.C.).

OLIVE-FRONTED EUPHONIA *(E. chrysopastas):* Unknown to English aviculture.

I had no skin of this species by me, and being unable to get to the museum, I quote the B.M.C. description in *extenso*.

"Above dark bronzy green; nape dark cinereous; front, sides of head "and rump tinged with yellow; below golden yellow, brighter in the mid- "dle, and slightly flecked on the breast and flanks with green; under sur- "face of wings and tail dark cinereous; under wing-coverts white; bill "plumbeous; feet brown. Whole length 4·3 inches, wing 2·3, tail 1·5.

"*Female:* Above like the male; below pale cinereous, whiter in the "middle of the belly; flanks and crissum pale yellow; under wing-coverts 'white."

"*Habitat:* Amazonia, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia."

"This species may be distinguished from *E. mesochrysa* by the ab-
"sence of the distinct yellow-forehead (B.M.C., Vol. XI.)

PLUMBEOUS EUPHONIA *(E. plumbea):*

Unknown to English aviculture.

As with the preceding species I quote from the B.M.C., *in extenso*.

"Body above and throat dark plumbeous, with a slight olive tinge
"on the back; abdomen and crissum golden yellow; wings and tail below
"dark cinereous; under wing-coverts white; bill dark plumbeous; feet
"brown. Whole length 3·3 inches, wing 1·8, tail 1."

"*Female:* Above paler, and whole back tinged with olive; below
"throat pale cinereous; belly pale yellow"

"*Habitat:* Lower Amazonia and British Guiana."

"This is the smallest species of the genus, and easily recognizable
"by its distinct colouring (B.M.C., Vol. XI).

This brings us to the end of the genus Euphonia, and leaves but two genera, *Hypophœa* and *Pyrrhuphonia*, each with but a single species to complete the sub- family *Euphoniinœ*.

To be Continued.

Notes From Far and Near.

Outdoor Australia.

TROPICAL SCENERY.

The following cuttings, from the *Sydney Mail*, kindly sent by our esteemed member, Mr. J. Hume, will doubtless interest many readers.—ED.

There is beautiful tropical scenery on this island. The tide was falling rapidly, swirling, and eddying past our boat, and the roots of the mangroves began to protrude their long stems, shining black until the water dried from them. Mud flats appeared, and suddenly, without any warning, a living flame passed us—and we had seen our first Ibis. Past the dark green background of mangrove foliage the magnificent bird flew swiftly, flaming with a brilliance which shamed any pigment of human art. Then a flock of Snow-white Egrets, with trailing plumes, floated over head, and a host of tiny Sandpipers skimmed the surface of the water, Great Herons swept majestically into view, Curlew and Plover assembled in myriads, lining the mud flats at the water's edge. Pelicans flew over the boat, and Skimmers ploughed the surface of the tide in endless furrows. . . . . and then night closed quickly over all. From the zenith the sun had looked down upon a swamp quiet as death; it sank upon a scene full of myriad forms of life.

THE FLYCATCHERS.

W. M. Sherrie writes: Among the smaller birds of the bush there are none more widely known and few more intelligent than the Black and White Fantails (or willie wagtail). The clear dulcet note of the Wagtail may be heard at all hours of the night, and it is one of the first to contribute to the bush chorus which joyously heralds the dawn of the new day. Unless it is nesting, the bird has no fear, and will pertly dart under one's very nose to seize a fly. It is extremely wary and watchful, however in the breeding season, and will resort to all sorts of transparent devices to lead the intruder away from the nest. The birds invariably build near or over watercourses. Usually a branch is chosen which bends right over a stream or creek, so that the nest is practically safe from the attack of land creatures. The Wagtail is one of the few birds which after starting to build will select a fresh place to nest in if discovered. The writer has seen them carry off nests which were nearly completed, on finding that their retreat was known and build with the same material in some other locality. In country where Hawks and other predatory birds are numerous the Flycatchers will sometimes, deliberately, it would seem, build in the vicinity of a Butcherbird's nest, apparently relying upon the great pugnacity of the latter to keep marauders of the air from the neighbourhood. Commonly enough the Butcher-bird preys on the smaller tribe, but I have never known that matchless fighter (for his size) molest the Flycatchers. The nests of the latter are made of hair and wool principally, the whole being bound together with web. The nest is beautifully balanced on a limb, is about the size and shape of a small saucer, and is one of the most artistic specimens of bird-factory-work to be found in the bush. A rarer and less known member of the same family is the White-shafted Fantail, which also never ventures far from the creeks and valleys where moisture is assured. This is a very beautiful little bird, and although often found in isolated and secluded parts of the bush, is quite devoid of fear of man. It will come almost within reach and follow one about, as if interested in what you are doing. The general colour is black with white shafts to the tail (which is very long), and white facings on the head and wing feathers. The characteristic attitude of the bird is like that of the Blue Wren, with the tail straight up in the air. The nest of the White-shafted Fantail is shaped like a turnip, with a long tail hanging below the branch to which the thick part is fixed. From the bottom of the nest this tail tapers off gracefully to a point, and the elongation does not seem to serve any purpose but that of ornament. Like the Common Wagtail, as it is popularly called, the restless Flycatcher—known as the scissors-grinder, from the peculiar noise it makes, resembling the grinding or knocking softly together of flexible steel—is also black and white. This one has no black on the throat, however. The greatest difference is in the notes of the birds, the one being prettily musical, and the other having a singular scraping sound. Another species is the Brown Flycatcher, though it is not usually identified as one of this family, because it is nearly all brown and is formed like many of the plumper and long-winged birds, instead of having the slender and graceful outline of the better known Flycatcher, which is found only in the eastern part of the continent. Though differing in colour, form, and other characteristics, the habits of most of the species are much the same.

DO BIRDS REMOVE THEIR EGGS?

H.V.E.: Late one afternoon I found a Spur-winged Plover's nest with four eggs, but on visiting it the following morning it was empty, although the birds still hung about the place, showing much anxiety, and otherwise behaving as if their eggs were still in the vicinity. The same thing happened with regard to a pair of land Curlew's (Stone Plover's) eggs, and with regard also to a nest of the Black-breasted Plover. in fact, I have seen the latter bird carry away an egg in its beak after the nest was discovered, being scared and hurried, it dropped the egg before it had got very far away. No doubt, if not under observation, it would have succeeded in removing them—one by one—to a place of safety. The nest of a Plover is a mere shallow depression scooped out of the soil, lined with a little dry grass, and it would only take a few minutes to prepare a fresh one for the reception of its eggs without any pretence of a nest at all. Both it and the other Plovers rely to a great extent on the heat of the sun to hatch their eggs. In a third instance which, I think, is conclusive that birds sometimes either remove or possibly eat, their eggs after the nest has been interfered with, two eggs were taken from a Sacred Kingfisher's nest in a small hollow about 6 feet from the ground. The aperture was so narrow that the eggs taken from the clutch of four could with difficulty be removed with a dessert spoon. The nest was visited early next day when it was found that the two eggs left in the nest had disappeared also, and the birds were nowhere to be seen. The hollow had not been enlarged, and as there were no Monitor Lizards in the locality, and the hole would scarcely admit the head of a Jackass, it is probable that they were removed or destroyed by the Kingfishers themselves. Both the Monitor Lizard and the Jackass eat bird's eggs—the latter of course preferring those of some other bird to those of its own species. In all these instances conclusions may be drawn without taking into account the destructive factor known as "small boy," happily absent from the localities in which these nests were found, and who so frequently wars against one of man's best friends in the shape of the insectivorous bird.—*Sydney Mail,* April 6, 1910.

Birds in the Wanganui District.

The following Nature Notes, by James Drummond, F.Z.S., F.L.S., are extracts from cuttings from the N.Z. Herald, kindly sent by our esteemed member Mr. F. Howe, and should prove of general interest.—Ed.

New Zealand ornithologists regard Wanganui as one of the classical districts of the Dominion. It will give a great deal of pleasure to readers of this column therefore to learn on the authority of *Mr. Thomas Dix,* whose work as a Surveyor has given him a wide bush experience, that native birds are still fairly plentiful in the district.

Mr. Dix finds that small birds are more plentiful than larger species, a condition that seems to prevail in most parts of the Dominion. The Riro-riro (Grey Warbler), Wren, Fantail, Tit, Lark, White-eye, Shag, Tui, Dotterel, Ka-ka, Crow, Shining Cuckoo, Weka, Kiwi, Pigeon, Harrier, and Bellbird are fairly numerous; and the Rail, Parrakeet, Swamp-hen, Long-tailed Cuckoo, Bittern, and Sparrow-hawk, though not very plentiful, are frequently seen. This is a long and satisfactory list. It is specially gratifying to take account of the fact that it includes the North Island Crow, which in recent years has often been reported to be extinct. These birds may not be plentiful in all parts of the district, but in some localities they are "exceedingly numerous." It is the Grey Warbler, with its happy nature, that appeals most to Mr. Dix. "Its whistle can be heard during the heaviest of storms, and then there is not even a sound from the other birds. About 16 years ago an old Maori man in Taranki mentioned that the Riro-riro slightly changed its notes and whistled more shrilly before rain. I have studied the bird closely and have found that this is correct.

Bellbirds are exceptionally plentiful on the watershed of the Wanganui and Mangawhero Rivers. It is only recently that Mr. Dix has come to realise what a bonny bird the Bellbird is. One beautiful morning he found a Tui and five Bellbirds within a radius of half a chain and there seemed to be a competition as to which should sing the sweetest. All the birds were singing the same tune, and the Bellbirds probably were mocking the Tui, All the Bellbirds finished with a note which resembled a nicely-tuned bell, but which was missing in the Tui's song. Crows also are plentiful on the watershed. They seem to be more plentiful during the winter on the tops of ridges. They are usually found at an altitude of about 2,000ft., and they favour the Tawhero more than any other tree for their haunts. The Kiwi is fairly plentiful on the watershed of the Waitotara and Wanganui Rivers, but they can also be found, though not in great numbers, on the Mangawnero-Wanganui watershed. In the former locality Mr. Dix recently caught a half-grown Kiwi. He says that it was amusing to see the way in which it ran. It seemed to be a black ball rolling towards him, as its head could not be seen. The Maoris, he adds, frequently catch Kiwis with dogs and use the feathers for the better class of mats.

He supports the statements of other correspondents, that the nest of the Native Pigeon is not often found. About five years ago, when he was working in the Maungakaretu district, two of his workmen came across a pigeon's nest with three young ones in it. Last year another of his assistants found a pigeon's nest. On both of these occasions the nests were fairly close to the ground, and were built in a Mahoe tree. He believes that Pigeons build their nests chiefly in tall trees, which people are unable to climb, and that is why they are not often found.

The Shining Cuckoo is plentiful all over the district. Last December he saw six of these birds in a cluster feeding on grass about half a mile from the edge of the bush. Long-tailed Cuckoos are not very plentiful. A few years ago he saw two during the winter. On one occasion a Long-tailed Cuckoo alighted on a tree close to where he was standing. After a short time it began to whistle, and it appeared to him that it could throw the sound in any direction. The Shining Cuckoo is believed to have the power of ventriloquism, and Mr. Dix suggests that the other New Zealand members of the family may have the same gift. White-eyes are very rare in the district, and he only once had the good fortune to see a flock of them. There were about six, and he watched with pleasure the thorough manner in which they worked a tree in search of insects, all the time chirping to one another..

Wekas are "exceedingly plentiful" both in the bush and the open country. The gorse hedges provide splendid shelter for them, and it is thought that it will be a long time before they are killed out. He was amused at a chase he saw between a Weka and a dog. It took place along the banks of the Turakino River. The Weka could not obtain shelter to evade the dog, and its only chance was to swim the river, It did this, and swam splendidly, and got away from the dog. Some years ago, while working close to Shannon, he discovered a Weka's nest containing eggs. The nest was situated over two feet above the ground. He had not long to wait to ascertain the reason for building it at that height. A flood came and stopped the survey party's work for a fortnight; on their return they found that the flood had not reached the nest The Bittern is becoming very rare in the district; he has seen it only in the locality of Marhau Lake. The Grey Duck is not nearly so plentiful as it was 10 years ago; it becomes very wary at the opening of the shooting season. The Teal and Blue Mountain Duck are not very plentiful. Some years ago, when working in Central Otago district, he found a Paradise Duck mated to a Grey Drake, with several young.—(*New Zealand Herald*).

Freely Imported Species and Their Treatment.

Red-crested Cardinals.

(Paroaria cucullata).

By B. Hamilton Scott.

I have been asked by our Editor to write my experiences in breeding Red-crested Cardinals. I may say I am quite a novice, never having kept any foreign birds before, although I have had an aviary of British Finches for eight years.

About September, 1909, I saw a very dirty specimen of a Red-crested Cardinal in our local dealer's shop, and on finding it was a cock bird I purchased him and turned him into a large cage hung out of doors.

In a very short time he was in very respectable plumage. Later on when the weather became colder I brought him indoors. In the following April I bought a very fine hen, which, I at first had serious doubts about as she sang nearly as well as the cock bird, and was even brighter in colour.

On Whit Monday I turned them into a fairly large outdoor aviary, the only other occupants of which were a pair of White Java Doves. In less than half an hour I was sure they were a pair for they went through most curious antics such as one sees the Wryneck doing at the breeding season. About a fortnight after turning them out I saw them carrying nesting material about so I gave them a good supply of fine birch twigs and hay, cut into lengths. They immediately started nest building in earnest, choosing the top of a flat wire screen inside the house. Here they built a very neat cup-shaped nest, the outer portion consisting of twigs and coarse hay and lined inside with fine hay. The nest was started on June 2nd, and finished by the 6th. The first egg was laid on the 7th, and the two others on the two following days. They were dark olive-green in colour, thickly mottled with a darker shade and in size a little larger than Nightingales. The hen had sat for the first few days but later on either bird might be seen on the nest, seemingly having no fixed time, except that the hen bird sat at night. In thirteen days the first young one was hatched, another following the next day; the third egg was clear. They were dark grey in colour and covered with long black down. A few days before the time for hatching I supplied the parents with some soft food, made of crushed Osborne biscuit, and the yolk of a hard boiled egg, and mixed into a crumbly paste with scalded milk. This they ate readily. I also supplied them with plenty of green food, fruit, and mealworms, and any garden insects that I could get hold of; these, however, just at this time were very scarce.

The young birds grew rapidly, and soon began to put on feathers, and at twelve days old the stronger one jumped out of the nest, being followed on the next day by the other one. They were very "perky" little birds, hopping about, jerking their tails and nodding their heads.

In colour they were considerably duller than their parents', the pointed red crest and throat of the old birds being replaced by a small rounded crest and throat patch of snuff brown. The breast was white as in the adult. The back, wings, and tail were of a greyish-sooty-brown, devoid of markings.

I was lucky about this time in finding a large ants' nest, and although the cocoons were rather small they were greedily eaten by the old birds. Green caterpillars began to get more plentiful, and the young birds grew and were soon as big, and able to fly as well, as the old birds. Another difference noticeable in the young at this age was that they showed a considerable amount of white in their flight feathers, those of the old birds being black. They were fed by the cock bird for some time after they could feed themselves.

About that time (July 20th) I noticed the hen making angry darts at the young birds, but she never actually attacked them. It was now obvious that she wanted to go to nest again, so I fixed up a small orchid basket in the inner house, and they soon built another nest, and again three eggs were laid, all being hatched. The old birds, however, were not so attentive, and two of the young ones died; the other grew quickly but, when about a fortnight old, he fell out of the nest. I should have said that I had previously fixed some long twiggy branches from the floor to the higher perches, up which the young birds might hop. This last youngster grew to be full grown, but was never so strong as the two earlier ones, and he never learnt how to feed himself, and one morning I found him dead. I should have mentioned that on the day the last young bird fell from the nest, the old birds made violent attacks on the two full grown ones.

The gardener who was working some distance from the aviary heard what he called "loud screechings" and running up saw both the old birds on the top of one of the young ones (which was on its back) and pecking it viciously. He clapped his hands and they flew off, but he kept a watchful eye upon them until I came home, when I caught both young birds and put them in with my Finches.

This shows the advisability of removing the young of such species when able to fend for themselves. I might add that if enough fresh ants "eggs" could be got they would rear their young entirely on them as my birds seemed to prefer them to anything else.

The seed they have access to consisted of canary, white millet, and oats, in equal parts, together with a small quantity of hemp seed.

A Visit to Mr. Willford's Aviaries.

By Lieut. G. Kennedy.

On the 14th inst., Mr. Willford very kindly asked me to come on a visit to his place in the Isle of Wight, with Mr. Page.

I was very struck with the size and beauty of the aviaries and with the natural surroundings among which his birds live. Also I very much appreciated the absence of any of the Parrot tribe, resulting as it does in nice green and leafy trees and abundance of grass and plant life. Also it adds to the peacefulness of the aviaries, for the birds are unharried, and there are none of the unpleasant noises to which the Parrot tribe are addicted.

Watching the birds from Mr. Willford's room, which overlooks the aviaries, on Sunday afternoon, we were lulled to sleep by the soothing cooing of the doves, which recalled to my memory many a repose under a shady Mango tree, sheltered from the rays of the fiery Indian sun.

Where every bird is so interesting it is hard to know where to begin, so I will not attempt their description, but will leave it to the abler pen of Mr. Page.

Mr. Willford had a particularly fine pair of Grey-winged Ouzels nesting, and also some remarkably pretty Sugar-birds, which much struck my fancy. Also I was much amused by his Marabou Stork, which, for our benefit, did a "Blondin" walk along the framework roof of the aviaries and at another time showed us his peculiar, and one would think uncomfortable method of squatting down with his legs stretched out in front of him. I was also enabled to see some nests and eggs of wild English birds and some excellent photographs of them, and of the parents sitting and feeding their young. Mr. Willford has now added to his stock from my importation

1 ♂ and 2 ♀ Pink-browed Rose-finches.
1 ♂ Redmantled Rosefinch.
2 ♂ Common Rosefinches.

He is also having from me:

1 Blue-cheeked Barbet.
1 Pair Giant Barbets *(Megalæma marshallorum).*

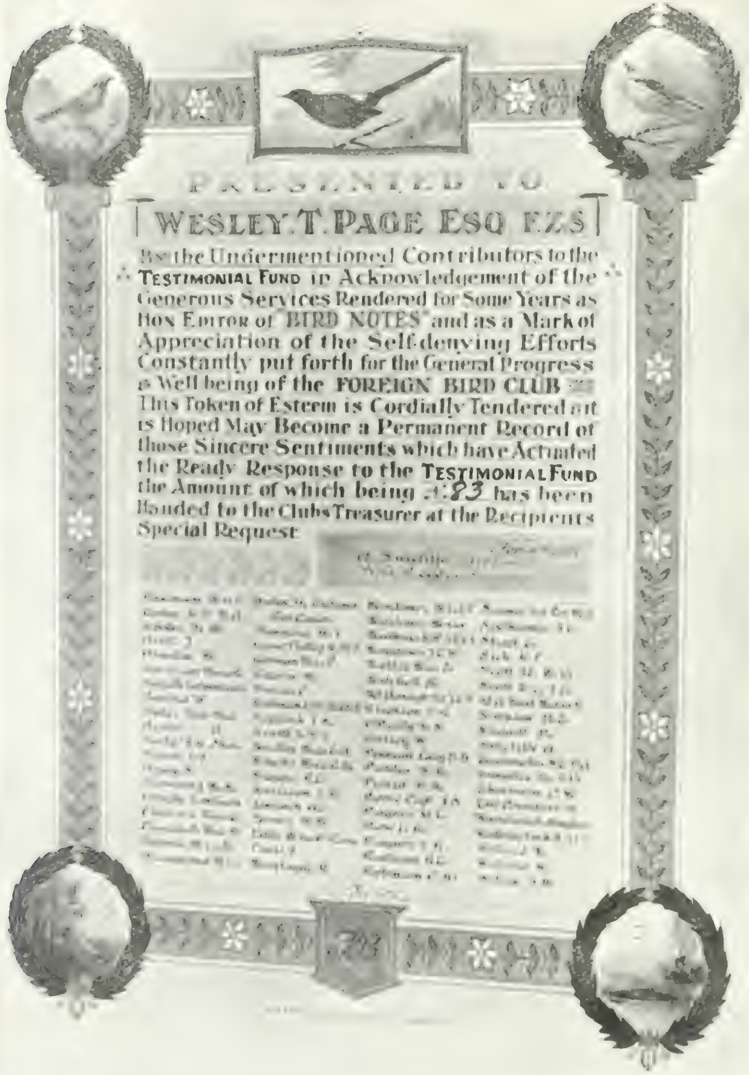
I hope he will have good breeding results with the Pink-browed Rosefinches and Giant Barbets and will later be able to obtain mates for the others.

In closing, I should like to express my thanks and indebtedness to Mr. Page and Mr. Willford.

Book Notices and Reviews.

Photography for Bird Lovers. By Bentley Beetham, F.Z.S., London, Witherby and Co., 326 High Holborn, W.C., 5s. net. Those who have read Mr. Beetham's recent work "Home life of the Spoonbill" will scarcely be surprised at the success he has achieved in writing "A Practical Guide on Bird Photography." Limitation of space will not permit of extracts, but we give a glossary of contents, and illustrations.

Chapter I. Introductory. Bird-photography explained—scope, etc.
,, II. Apparatus (Very comprehensive, Ed.)
,, III. Nest Photography.
,, IV. Photographing Young Birds.
,, V. Photographing by the stalking method.
,, VI. Photographing by the concealment method.
,, VII. Photographing by concealment and artificial attraction.
,, VIII. Photographing by rope-work on the cliff-face.
,, IX. The Photography of Birds in Flight.
,, X, Bird Photography in colour and cinematography.
,, XI. Photographing Birds in Captivity,



PRESENTED TO

WESLEY T. PAGE ESQ F.Z.S

By the Undermentioned Contributors to the TESTIMONIAL FUND in Acknowledgement of the Generous Services Rendered for Some Years as Hon Editor of "BIRD NOTES" and as a Mark of Appreciation of the Self-denying Efforts Constantly put forth for the General Progress & Well being of the FOREIGN BIRD CLUB This Token of Esteem is Cordially Tendered & it is Hoped May Become a Permanent Record of those Sincere Sentiments which have Actuated the Ready Response to the TESTIMONIAL FUND the Amount of which being £83 has been Handed to the Clubs Treasurer at the Recipients Special Request

Facsimile of Illuminated Address presented to the Hon. Editor at a Complimentary Dinner at the Crystal Palace, Feb. 4th, 1911.

Illustrations:—

Guillemots at the Cliff-foot. Sandpiper's nest, eggs only. Oystercatcher's nest. Woodcock's nest. Young Long-eared Owls. Young Curlew hiding. Young Curlew on parade. Young Sandwich Terns. Puffins at home. A Grouse on its nest. A Hide of Reeds. A Curlew stepping astride of her eggs. A near study of a Lapwing. A more distant view of the same Bird. Descending a Kittiwake-haunted chasm. Tawny Owl, Gaunet sweeping by on fixed pinions, Gannet coming round a corner.

The eleven chapters, are very thorough and complete, every phase of the subject is fully dealt with in an interesting and practical manner. The photographic illustrations are excellent, very interesting, and many of them very suggestive, in their-presentation of some phase of bird-life. We cordially commend this work to our readers.

CANARIES, HYBRIDS, AND BRITISH BIRDS IN CAGE AND AVIARY. Cassell and Co., in monthly parts, 7d. net. Part XIV. In this part interest is fully maintained, and the practical character of the work well upheld. The frontispiece is a good coloured plate, figuring Broken-capped Silver and Clear-capped Gold Lizards, and Jonque London Fancy Canaries, there are a number of illustrations in the text, including useful diagrams of cages, etc. The text consists of chapters on the "Belgian Canary," "Scotch Fancy Canary," "Yorkshire Canary," Lancashire Coppy," and "Old Dutch Canary and Dutch Frill." An excellent part, replete with interest.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES.

RIFLE BIRD: Our esteemed member Mr. E. J. Brook kindly sends me the following note: "After you left, the Rifle "Bird hen laid, but, the egg fell to the ground and was broken.* "I think this is interesting, as being in all probability the "first case of a Paradise Bird laying in confinement. The "egg was rather elongated, the ground colour buff, and heavily "streaked and blotched with brown."

This certainly is most interesting, and raises renewed hopes of Paradise Birds nesting in captivity. The aviaries at Hoddam Castle are a very fine series of handsome and *practical* structures, but I must reserve an account of my visit till next issue, when I hope a descriptive article will appear.

PURPLE-CAPPED LORIES, ETC.: Our esteemed member, Mr. W. Edmunds, sends a few interesting notes: "My pair of "Purple-caps, (purchased about twelve months ago from our

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*Another egg was laid the next day with a similar result.

"esteemed Hon. Sec.) nested in February last, but, the two eggs were eaten by the cock." [This seems to be quite a vice with this species, as the present is by no means an isolated instance.—Ed.] "Yesterday (April 29th) she again laid, "and having taken the precaution to remove the cock to "other quarters, I am this time hoping for success. My "Many Colours are also busily nesting. One of the fascina- "tions of foreign bird keeping is the 'glorious uncertainty' "of breeding results . . . . . during the short time I have "kept them my successes have been practically nil with the "'Freely Imported Species,' on the other hand success has "often attended my efforts with purchases which I have felt I "could not afford!"

We opine that if F.B.'s. were as easy to breed as Canaries, many of us would soon tire of them. Uncertainty, hope, and happenings, are some of the chief charms of aviculture.

An Interesting Episode: Our esteemed member Miss Alfreda B. Smythe relates an unusual incident:—"One of my "Weaver Birds wove a Cutthroat's leg to the branch of a "piece of pine . . . fortunately I was in the room and "able to free it or I fear it would have broken its leg, as "when it tried to fly it hung by one leg struggling vigourously. "The Cutthroat was asleep at the time the Weaver was at "work."

Very unusual and interesting, it appears little short of marvellous that the Weaver was able to secure the leg (presumably without intent) without awaking the bird.

The L.M. Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College Aviaries: These are figured in another portion of this issue. In addition to those already announced the following birds have been sent or promised:

I pair each, Cutthroats and Saffron Finches, by Miss Alfreda B. Smythe.

Two young Cockateels, by J. Sumner Marriner.

1 pair Yellow Budgerigars, by G. E. Haggie.

1 pair Senegal Doves, by H. Willford.

The Hon. Editor hopes to hear from other members willing to donate pairs or odd birds—any species of Parrakeet, Finches, Buntings, Mannikins, Waxbills, etc., will be welcome.

A Rare Consignment of Indian Birds: Our esteemed member Lieut G. Kennedy, when returning to this country on a short furlough, brought with him—that is, started from Calcutta with about 100 birds in March last, consisting of: Plumbeous, White-capped and Blue-fronted Redstarts, Red-flanked Bush Robins, Blue-headed Robins, Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher, Black-headed Sibias, Variegated and Streaked Laughing Thrushes, Black Bulbuls, White-eyes *(Z. palpebrosa)*, Tailor Bird, Green-backed and Crested Black Tits, Temminck's Blue Whistling Thrush, Grey-headed Ouzels, Giant Barbets, Blue-cheeked Barbets, Rosefinches (3 species), Shamas, Dyals, Green Bulbuls, Hanging Parrakeets, Sunbirds, Jerdon's Accentor, Brain-fever Bird, Orange-headed Ground Thrushes, etc. All went well *en route* and, there were practically no losses till Genoa was reached, where the Whistling Thrush was stolen, and a few deaths occurred owing to sudden change of temperature—3 Orioles and a Black Bulbul. After Gibraltar was passed there was nothing but disaster—through the Bay of Biscay and up the Channel, the fierce blizzard of early April was encountered and they arrived in the Thames three or four days late, and about 70 rare birds lost during this period. It was most disheartening, but the marvel is that any were landed alive, considering the weather conditions of the last few days of the voyage.

Mr. Kennedy kindly supplies me with the following incidents : " Between Port Said and Genoa I was short of food " and had to feed my birds on potted and minced raw meat " and biscuits, and such flies as I could knock over with a " wet towel. At Genoa I got some baked silkworm cocoons, " which I ground and mixed with the biscuits."

" The Tits were very keen on monkey nuts, which I " got from bags broken in the hold."

The following birds were landed alive:

*1 pair Giant Barbets (*Megalæma marshallorum*).
1 Blue-cheeked Barbet *(Cyanops asiatica)*.
*3 Grey-headed Ouzels *(Merula castanea)*.
1 Black Bulbul *(Hypsipetes psaroides)*.
1 White-cheeked Bulbul *(Molpastes leucotis)*.
5 Orange-headed Ground Thrushes *(Geocichla citrina)*.
*3 Crested Black Tits *(Lophophanes melanophus)*.

3 Pink-browed Rosefinches *(Propasser rhodochrous).*
2 Common Rosefinches *(Carpodacus erythrimus).*
1 Red-mantled Rosefinch *(Propasser grandis)*
3 Streaked Laughing Thrushes *(Trochalopterum lineatum).*
2 White-eyes *(Zosterops palpebrosa).*
1 Magpie Robin *(Dyal Bird)* young ♀
1 Blue-fronted Redstart *(Ruticilla frontalis).*
1 Shama, young ♂

*Probably new to English aviculture.

Most of the birds have come into the possession of our members, and we shall get detailed accounts of same a little later. The Indian White-eyes, Streaked Laughing Thrushes, and Grey-headed Ouzels have passed into the writer's possession, and are all rare and handsome species. Accounts will appear in our next issue.

It is most disappointing that at the end of the voyage, what promised to be a unique consignment, should have suffered such disaster, and it speaks much for the care bestowed on the birds that any were landed alive, and Lieut. Kennedy will have the sympathy of all aviculturists in the disaster which overtook the birds at the tail-end of the voyage, robbing him of the fruits of his enterprise and aviculturists of many beautiful and rare acquisitions.

INFERTILE CLUTCHES : Our esteemed member, Mr. C. R. Tyson, is making a collection of eggs of Foreign birds, and will be greatly obliged if members will send him any addled or infertile eggs from their aviaries which they do not require for their own cabinets. Kindly post them to C. R. Tyson, 169 Sloane Street, Chelsea, London, S.W. We hope many members will respond—many such eggs are often thrown away.

FOOD ITEMS: Our esteemed Hon. Vet. Surgeon, Mr. H. Gray, kindly sends the following:—

"Miss A. von Keim, Arta, Greece, is, on behalf of the Ladies' Association of the Greek Cottagers' Industries, offering to bird fanciers and aviculturists silk-worm pupae at one shilling per kilogramme (2.2046 pounds). In large quantities, it will be sent carriage paid. I have advised her to transport in hermetically sealed tins. She informs me that there was a plague of grass-hoppers in Greece last year and that the fowls ate them with evident relish but there is a prejudice amongst the people against letting them feed on them, as the eggs are supposed to have a bad taste if they do

If the peasantry would only trap them and either transfer them alive in boxes having wire gauze ventilators, or dead, after they have been dried they might add to their incomes, and at the same time benefit aviculture as well as agriculture."

Both the above items should prove welcome additions to the Insectile Mixture.

AVIARY NOTES: From a private letter by our esteemed member, Dr. M. Amsler, I am extracting the following as of general interest.

> "My Tanagers, Blue and Scarlet, have been out of doors "all winter, and were sleek and slim the whole time. Not so "the Superbs, which had to come in, in November."
>
> "A pair of Yellow-headed Reed Birds (Marsh Birds) also "stayed out without any ill effect, but I had to bring the hen "in, in March, as she was moulting heavily and could not fly."
>
> "One pair of Cuba Finches, which I kept out of doors were "certainly better than those flying about in a bird-room (indoors "but unheated)."

SUGAR BIRDS AND COLD: Our esteemed member, Mr. Suggitt, of Cleethorpes, Lincs., writes me concerning his Sugar Birds as follows:—

> "The Yellow-winged appear to be building. Since I have "turned them out we have had some cold spells and sharp frost, " . . . . they have certainly taken no hurt, and are very fit "and tight, and from recent observations I am of the opinion that "they will stand more cold than our migrant Warblers—however, we shall see."

Our esteemed member, Mrs. C. Anningson, of Cambridge, has had a similar experience, and we hope to give details in a near issue.

MR. WILLFORD'S AVIARIES: Here the birds appear to have made a good start and there is every promise of a successful season. Several of the smaller enclosures have been amalgamated, and there are now six or seven large wilderness enclosures, in which the following species are busily engaged, either in the duties of incubating eggs or feeding young: Parrot, Diuca, and Ruddy Finches: Rufous-tailed Grassfinches, Grey-winged Ouzels, Silver-eared Mesias, Chaffinches, Senegal and Passerine Doves, as well as many others, such as Zebra Finches, etc.

A pleasing feature here is a crowd of Yellow-winged Sugarbirds, enjoying semi-liberty in a natural aviary; really an entrancing sight—which the writer enjoyed during a recent visit—and one which will live long in his memory,—for it was at any rate a glimpse of the demeanour and indescribable beauty which those witness, who see them in their native haunts.

The Late Mr. H. Scherren.

On April 25th last, our esteemed member passed away, mercifully released after much suffering from a malignant disease (cancer). Those who knew him well mourn a genial friend and fellow student of Natural History. Though his active pen did not swell our pages, this was our loss and others' gain; yet during a long and active life his accurate pen was never still, and, the testimony of those best able to judge of his work is: that he was a painstaking and competent naturalist, an accurate recorder of Natural History facts and episodes. On the continent his merit was as fully recognised as in this country. He was a Fellow of many scientific (English and Continental) societies.

Some of his principle activities were:

As one of the editorial staff of the Encyclopœdic Dictionary.

As one of the Zoological correspondents for the *Times*, *Standard* and *Field*, etc.

He was author, among other works, of: "Ponds and Rock Pools," "Popular History of Animals for the Young," "Through a Pocket Lens," "Popular History of the Lower Animals (Invertebrates)', "History of the Zoological Society of London."

We tender our deep sympathy to Mrs. Scherren in her great bereavement.

Correspondence.

A CLUB LIBRARY.

Sir,—I quite agree with the suggestion of Mr. H. A. Soames as to the advantages the members would receive from a Library, and I shall have great pleasure in doing all I can to assist in the formation of one. I will give a copy of "Harting's Handbook of British Birds." I would like to suggest that if a Library is formed a Catalogue be printed in *Bird Notes* and that each member when requiring a book pays the postage or carriage each way, and must return the book to the Librarian within three weeks if residing in the United Kingdom. I enclose a rough copy of a register for the use of the Librarian.

Each member of the Club using the Library should pay a small subscription, say 5s. per year, which could be expended in books.

W. OAKEY.

Sir,—I think the suggestion of a Library in connection with the F.B.C. is an exceedingly good one, and I hope it will not be lost sight of. Works on Ornithology, Naturalistic Travels, etc., would prove a great boon to members, if we could only get a sufficient number, either given, loaned, purchased, or on deposit under guarantee from some such firm as Mudies', and it should not be unduly difficult to float a practical scheme. I trust many members will express their views and that there will be some practical outcome of Mr. Soames' most excellent suggestion.

W. T. ROGERS.

[Will members generally give their views and state clearly what they think of the above project. If heartily taken up, a fair selection of books could soon be on hand, and many, like myself, would doubtless be willing to loan various works under certain conditions. I suggest that after another month has passed, so as to give time for a full expression of opinion on the subject, a committee (subject to the Council) be formed, to consider rules, etc., to be presented and considered at a July meeting of the Council.—ED.]

Re POST MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

Sir,—In reply to Mr. Gray concerning above queries, on again reading my notes on the "Pintail Nonpareil," which appeared in the March issue of *Bird Notes* I must confess I might have expressed myself a little more lucidly as regards the post mortem examinations of the Pintail Nonpareil, but, if anybody ought to have made out my meaning, surely Mr. Gray should, who says at present I don't quite understand their purport. Broadly speaking I agree with Mr. Gray in calling the two points raised by him conundrums, be that as it may I hope Mr. Gray will be able to satisfactorily answer these conundrums. I will now endeavour to explain my meaning more fully. Firstly, ought not the post mortem examinations to help us to cater for these birds. Considering the frightful mortality amongst newly imported Nonpareils it suggests the following points to me. Either these birds are incorrectly fed during their importation into this country, overcrowded during the voyage or incorrectly fed by dealers and aviculturists, generally. Should not a post mortem examination help to clear these points, for the following reasons. The organs of a bird such as the gizzard, &c., would, I think suggest the nature of its food in a wild state, if there is nothing in the food question to account for those sudden deaths all the better. Next I come to overcrowding on the voyage which may cause a certain fatal disease to occur which a post mortem examination should diagnose. Secondly, Do they ? I always carefully follow all post mortem examinations, but have seen nothing to conclusively justify these sudden deaths. Are these birds subject to any special disease, or is the species constitutionally delicate? I am afraid these notes will trespass far more than I intended, but hope I have now made all clear to Mr. Gray and others.

H. V. JOHNSON.

Sir,—I thank Mr. Johnson for his lucid explanation, which now enables me to answer his questions.

I believe the majority of the Pintail Nonpareils, like the other highly coloured finches, die from an auto-infection, that is, an infection of the blood by the normal microbes of the intestine gaining the blood-stream, and setting up a variety of septicaemia. This is no doubt brought about by the overcrowding of the birds during transport, and afterwards, the filthy condition to which they are subject in bird shops. These by themselves lower the vitality of the birds, and our climatic conditions give the finishing touch, and in consequence disease is produced.

At other times these birds suffer from *true* contagious diseases and *infectious* septicaeimas which are contracted at bird-shops.

I believe the ordinary food supply has nothing to do with the mortality, and one cannot gather anything from a study of the anatomy of the viscera as to the way a bird or even an animal should be fed during confinement. This can only be obtained by actual experience or by experiment.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY GRAY.

NESTING NOTES.

Sir,—I have two young Virginian Cardinals that, I expect, will leave the nest to-morrow. They are in an aviary with a pair of Stanley Parrakeets, which, I think, pecked some of the Cardinals young ones last year. The Stanleys, a beautiful pair, examine the nest boxes each year, and raise my hopes, but, never get any further. I have two young Parrot Finches, about a week old in another aviary, and a St. Helena Seedeater sitting, but unfortunately she has no mate. The Black-cheeked Lovebirds have a nest in a log, where they built and brought up five young last year. A curious thing, to me, is that the hen has moulted out with a yellowish-brown neck and head, and a few lighter green feathers on her body, quite a different looking bird. The Californian Quail have eggs, they are in a small sheltered aviary with a pair of

King Parrakeets. She lays annually, but all her eggs so far have proved infertile.

I lost my last Blue Robin recently, a lovely bird, which was bred here some years ago.

I note that Zosterops are not imported now, this is regrettable as they are such taking birds, I had one which lived here at least seven years, and spent one winter in an unheated aviary out of doors.

I wish some of our members would say what pairs of interesting, hardy birds could be kept with Parrakeets. Do Glossy Starlings steal other birds' eggs?

Have the Orange-breasted Thrushes been bred? I have a good acclimatized cock.

(Hon.) MARY C. HAWKE.

Wighill Park,
Tadcaster, May 8th, 1911.

[It would be of great practical interest if members would give details of series of birds they keep together in one aviary: such details should include size, and arrangements (furnishings, etc) of aviary.

I do not recognise the species from the trivial name Orange-breasted Thrushes, but your bird is probably either the Orange-headed or White-throated Ground Thrush. Neither have been bred in captivity.—Ed.]

WINTERING BIRDS OUT OF DOORS

Sir,—I thought that a short account of how my birds have stood the winter in out-door aviaries, might be of some interest.

No. 1 Aviary: This is open to the south—Black-faced Lovebirds, Californian Quails, and Bronze-necked Doves have wintered safely. The B.F. Lovebirds nested all winter but, eggs proved infertile—have had twenty-one eggs from one pair since October*

No. 2 Aviary: Here the shelter window was open in the daytime only—Violet Doves, and Budgerigars have wintered safely.

No. 3 Aviary: Here, Rosella Parrakeets, Diamond Doves, Black-headed, White-headed, and Tri-coloured Mannikins, Cutthroats, Bengalese, Zebra Finches, and Silverbills, have stood the winter well. I lost the hen Diamond Dove and one or two Finches, from egg-binding, presumably. The window of shelter was open during day-light only.

No. 4 aviary: The shelter is open to the south, and the window was open during daylight. Here: Roseate Cockatoos, Moustache, and Ring-neck Parrakeets; Cockatiels; Aurita, Diamond, Peaceful, and Zebra Doves; Red-crested Cardinals; Saffron Finches; Java Sparrows, and Californian Quail, all wintered without casualty. The Cockatoos nested outside in the most awful weather; the other birds had shelter from rain only.

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*See description of aviaries in February issue of current volume.—Ed.

No. 5 aviary: Here were kept Green Cardinals; Red-headed, Ruddy, Silky, and Ruddy-shouldered Cowbirds; Yellow-winged and Pagado Starlings; Cinnamon Sparrows; Orange, and Red-billed Weavers; Paradise Whydahs; White-cheeked, and Indian Quail, Crested, White-winged, and Partridge Bronze-winged Doves; Gouldian, and Grey. and Green Singing Finches. I lost a hen White-cheeked Quail, pair of Grey Singing Finches, and a Cock Silky Cowbird, all from pneumonia, I believe. I think my experience proves, that once birds are acclimatised they can stand our climate very well.

The breeding season with me, is as yet, not very far advanced, but, I have now nesting Green Cardinals, Ruddy, and Ruddy-shouldered Cowbirds; Californian, and White-cheeked Quail; Black-faced Lovebirds; Budgerigars; and Cockatiels.

I will send details of hatching operations (if any) at the end of the season.

WM. SHORE BAILY.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. *must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.*

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret

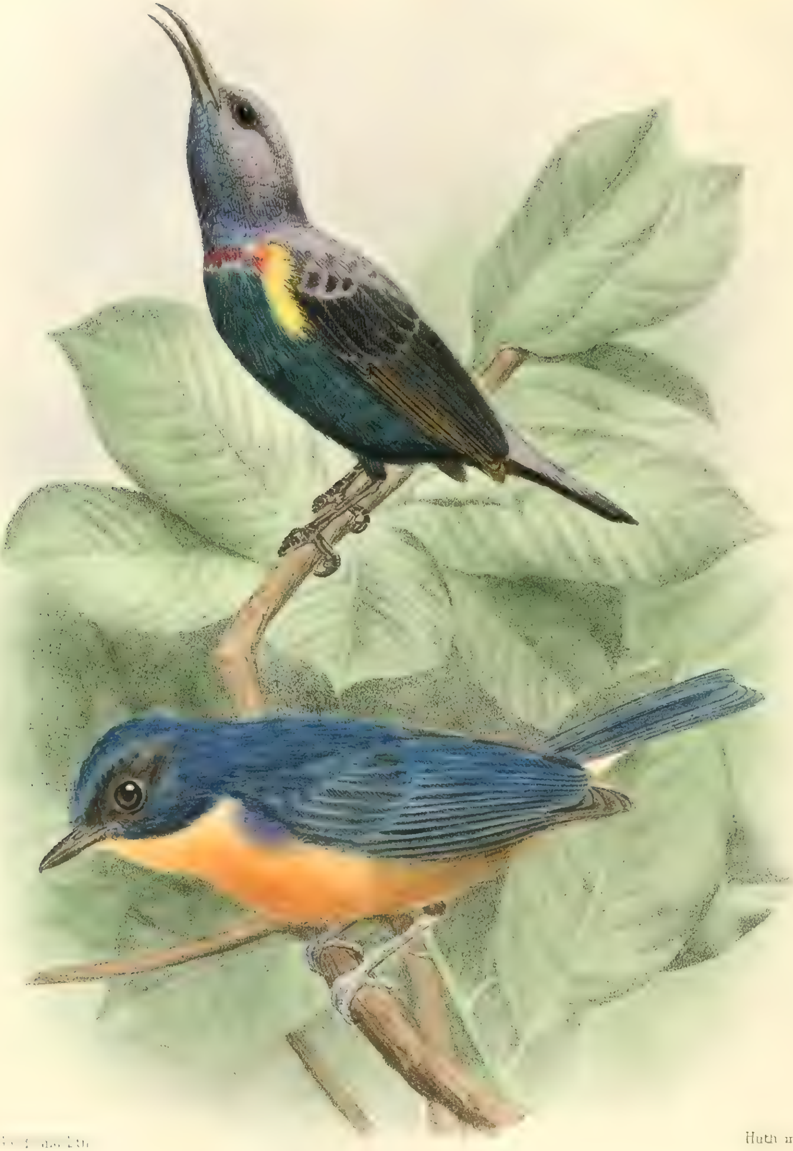
RED-FACED LOVEBIRD (♂). (Miss M. Greeven), Hyde Park, W. The crop and proventriculus or true stomach were crammed with ingesta and the body was very much emaciated. If recognised early a dose of castor oil might have remedied the disorder and staved off death. How long had the bird been in your possession? You say he had a "fit" four years ago.

These small Parrakeets as well as the Madagascar Parrakeets frequently die in convulsions soon after importation.

KNOT. (W. Shore-Baily), Boyers House, Wilts. This bird was in a very emaciated condition and had suffered from enteritis, probably due to improper feeding, coupled with a chill. Live food or a little egg food is beneficial to this kind of bird.

WAXBILL (♂) (Miss Lillia de Yarburgh Bateson, York, Cause of death was jaundice due to some infection of the blood consequent on a chill. It is a common affection in Waxbills and the smaller foreign Finches.

(*Continued in Inset, p.* 37.



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PURPLE SUN BIRD.

Cinnyris asiatica

GREAT BILLED FLYCATCHER.

Cyornis magnirostris

From life by H Goodchild from specimens belonging to C T Maxwell Esq

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Sunbirds in Captivity.

By L. W. Hawkins.

In response to the Editor's desire that I should send some notes concerning my little experience with Sunbirds, I will endeavour to do so. It was on January 10th, 1902, that I purchased my first Sunbird. Mr. Hamlyn had received some four or five from India, in the latter part of 1901, and all but one of these had been speedily sold. Some of the others were different and brighter in appearance. Whether these were of a different species, or merely specimens in full colour, I am unable to say, for I did not see them. However the one that remained was evidently a Purple Sunbird out of colour, and Mr. Hamlym had kept it on a diet of honey well diluted with water. The bird was in excellent health and it became mine for the sum of thirty shillings.

When I let it out of the travelling bird box, in which it had been kept, into a cage of about four cubic feet capacity it immediately began to sing, and to sing beautifully, too. This was an agreeable surprise to me, for my attention had previously been given almost exclusively to small seed-eating birds, most of which cannot claim to have good singing voices, however charming they may be in other directions. I had been fairly successful with Finches, and in 1900 received medals from the Avicultural Society for breeding the Masked Finch, and the Cuba Finch for the first time in these Islands. But, here was something new to me. This small Sunbird actually gave me credit for good intentions towards it, instead of dashing itself about as most of my other birds did when I approached them. I liked the bird better than any other I then possessed or which I had previously kept.

I put the diluted honey into a small pot at the bottom of the cage, and the bird, clinging to the wires over the pot, head downwards, thrust its thread-like tongue into the diluted honey, and greedily sucked it in; it seemed to do this every few moments all day long. Then the question of proper food arose. Honey alone did not appear to me to be sufficient. I supplied banana and orange. It liked to suck up the orange juice but the banana was scarcely touched. I caught a spider and offered it to the bird. It took it from my fingers at once, and before swallowing it held it suspended at the tip of its long beak, which pointed into the air, and at the same time the little bird's throat throbbed as it gave forth a subdued but pleasant warbling song. From that time, onwards, every spider I came across in the aviary I gave to the Sunbird. It was evident then that the bird's natural food consisted largely of insects, as well as the nectar of flowers.

Now honey, I believe, consists almost entirely of carbo-hydrates, and we know that proteid or nitrogenous food is also necessary for an animal's nutrition. I wished therefore to add something to the honey for a regular food. Milk contains all the substances necessary for the young mammal. Is it suitable for birds? Birds do not naturally get milk, and many Grey Parrots have been killed by a diet of milk sop. But Grey Parrots are naturally vegetarians, and one can understand that a digestive system adapted for seed food may be upset by the animal product, milk. The digestive secretions, however, of a bird used to animal food, such as the Sunbird, which can digest the proteids and fats of insects, as well as the carbo-hydrates of nectar, might not unreasonably be supposed to act similarly on the like ingredients of milk, even without the addition of such digestive ferments as pepsin, or the diastase contained in malt extract or Mellin's food. Rightly or wrongly, this is how I argued, and the whole time I kept the bird it was fed on a mixture of equal parts of English honey and Nestlé's condensed milk, the only extras being sweet oranges and spiders occasionally.

I may say, in passing, that my Varied Lorikeets, which likewise did not eat seed, lived for years on a mixture of honey, condensed milk, and powdered Osborne biscuits, with no additions whatever, for they would not take fruit. The advantage of this mixture over the milk sop usually given is that it will keep good for many days.

In the beginning of March, 1902, the Purple Sunbird began to justify his name, for specks of a metallic purple colour appeared on its head and breast, and in a month it was in full colour. Now, I began to let it out of its cage, and it would fly about in the aviary and through a door into a small greenhouse, where it used to spend its time searching the plants for insects, singing merrily the while. By placing the cage with the food pot in it near the bird, it was easy to get it to return thereto. In the following September the metallic colour began to disappear, and soon the old out-of-colour plumage returned. In this condition I sent it to the Crystal Palace Bird Show of November, 1902, where it was awarded a first prize and a special prize of a cruet.

In January, 1903, the full metallic colour again returned, and it appeared like this at the Crystal Palace in February, 1903. There it was marked "wrong class," because I misread the term Honeyeater to apply to birds so called in a popular sense, whereas the class only included birds scientifically classified as such. However it was awarded a special prize, and this was a live pet monkey. I wanted to decline the animal, and several people wrote to me asking me to let them have it, but my little boy had seen the monkey at the show, and he was most eager to have it home. So home it came, and it turned out to be a female Macaque. I think the monkey hated me by the way it always showed its teeth and grimaced at me when I went near it, but it loved the child, and was always happy when perched on his shoulder. My wife named it "Sonny," but when I pointed out that this was unsuitable for a lady monkey, we altered the name to "Sunny," because it was won by a Sunbird. When I told friends that I had won a monkey, they always seemed to think I had won a considerable sum of money at a horse race instead of a live animal. The monkey lived with us nearly two years, and in the summer months was often fastened by a long chain and padlock on our lawn here at Dulwich, where on several occasions the too confiding sparrows allowed it to pick them up. Sometimes the sparrows got off free again, for Sunny did not mean any harm, but sometimes they were squeezed to death. At the end of 1904 the monkey changed its home to the Crystal Palace, where it was to be seen till recently, labelled "presented by Master Hawkins."

The little Purple Sunbird did not live long after winning the monkey, and this I put down to the failure of our gas supply. The aviary was heated by some syphon gas stoves, and one frosty night in March 1903, the gas went out. It was not noticed at the time, and by the morning the birds had been submitted to severe cold and also to the effects of escaped gas for some hours. Both the Sunbird and a Yellow-winged Sugarbird looked very ill, and both died within two or three days, the Sunbird having been with me for fourteen months.

My only other attempt to keep Sunbirds was in January, 1906, when I obtained from Mr. Hamlyn two male Malachite Sunbirds, and a pair of Double-collared Sunbirds, which he had brought with him from South Africa. They were unfortunately in very poor condition, and three of them died within a few days. The survivor, a Malachite Sunbird, however, picked up and soon commenced to sing, and I am confident it would have lived and done well if I had not been foolish enough to send it to the Crystal Palace Show of February, 1906, within a month of its arrival. The poor bird was in very bad plumage and got itself messed up with its honey and milk mixture. I sent a request to the Show Manager to allow me to remove the bird during the show, but it was against the rules, and so many people were asking to see it. I believe it lived throughout the show, but it arrived home dead!

In spite of its wretched condition the judge gave it first prize, but the award was most unpopular, a so-called Black-backed Tanager in exquisite condition being the favourite, and perhaps justly so under the circumstances.

In the *Avicultural Magazine* for April, 1906, I suggested that the name Black-backed Tanager is wrong for *Calliste melanonota*, the right name being the Black-shouldered Tanager, as the true Black-backed Tanager is quite another bird, namely *Pipridea melanonota*, a skin of which is labelled Black-backed Tanager at the British Museum. My statement, however, was not accepted as correct. This, of course, was not surprising, but as, later on, such an authority as Dr. Butler called attention to the same error and corrected it in the same manner; I think it a pity that the mistake is still persisted in.

I saw Mr. Maxwell's perfect Purple Sunbird at the Crystal Palace this year, and was delighted to renew my acquaintance with the species. His method of feeding appeared very similar to my own, so it is doubtful if it can be much improved. It is to be hoped that more of these birds will be imported in a healthy condition, for I know they would give great pleasure to aviculturists.

The Great-billed Flycatcher

(Cyornis magnirostris).

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

The Flycatchers form one of the most fascinating groups of birds to keep, either for room, cage, or aviary and the species figured on our plate, if by no means the most gorgeous of the group, is most certainly a beautiful and striking bird. Unfortunately, they are all rare, very rare, on the English bird market, in fact very many of them are unknown to English aviculture; yet, given proper food they are not short-lived, for the few species that are known to cage life in this country have all done well—instance the specimen from which the figure on our plate was drawn, which has been in Mr. Maxwell's possession for upwards of two years, while Mrs. Leslie Miller's Verditer and Tickell's Flycatchers have both been in this country for a similar period if not longer.

Their graceful form, confiding demeanour and beautiful colouration, make them an acquisition to any collection, and most certainly birds to be sought after by all.

Mr. C. T. Maxwell's beautiful specimen has been exhibited at the L.C.B.A. and L.P.O.S. exhibitions of 1909-10 and 1911, and in February last at the Crystal Palace, it was looking far better than when first shown, while its plumage was of a richer hue, with not a feather out of place.

Our esteemed member, Mr. Douglas Dewar gives some interesting notes on Flycatchers in *Bird Notes* Vol. VIII., pages 47-8.

W. Oates, in the Fauna of British India—Birds, Vol. II., gives its distribution as follows:—

"Sikhim; Cachar; the Khasi hills; the extreme south of Tenasserim. The distribution of this species as known (1890) is very incomplete, and it will probably be found spread over the greater part of Assam and Burma. It is resident in Sikhim; occurs in Cachar in May, and in Tenasserim from December to March."

In the books at my command when writing, no descriptions are given of habits, nest, or eggs.

Description: *Male.* Whole of upper plumage, sides of face, neck, and breast, and wing coverts blue, much brighter on the forehead and above the eyes; chin, throat, and breast yellowish-chestnut; abdomen, fulvous at the sides, white in the middle; greater wing-coverts, quills, and tail feathers dark brown, suffused with blue on the outer webs, and dull blue margins; legs and feet pale flesh colour. Total length 6 inches, tail 2½.

Female: Above olive-brown, with the upper tail-coverts rufous-brown, and the tail feathers brown, suffused with rufous; lores and eye region fulvous; below orange-tawny; abdomen and under tail-coverts white, washed with ochraceous on the flanks.

Treatment in Captivity: Whether kept in a roomy cage, or during the summer months given semi-liberty in the outdoor aviary, its requirements are very simple, viz.: Insectile mixture and a few mealworms, spiders and any other insects that can be obtained; green-food and water for drinking and bathing.

If any Flycatchers appear on the market in the near future my readers will do well to secure pairs if possible, if not odd birds—they will soon number them among the most fascinating birds they have kept—their confiding demeanour is very similar to that of our indigenous Robin.

The Purple Sunbird and Great-billed Flycatcher.

By C. T. Maxwell.

I much regret being unable to respond to the Editor's request earlier, and even now though both birds are favourites of mine, feel that I have very little to say about them.

THE PURPLE SUNBIRD: I was much interested in the article on Sunbirds in last issue of *Bird Notes*, and that leaves me with but little to say about this my favourite and most costly foreign bird.

I am greatly pleased that you are giving a coloured plate of my two birds in this month's Magazine. Of all the many species of Foreign Birds I have kept I consider this the most desirable, and while I regret that they are not more freely imported, yet I suppose if they were to be pretty easily procured, much of the charm of possession would disappear.

I am told that so many die *en route*(no doubt largely due to improper feeding) that the few people who have been induced to bring them once, will seldom make the second attempt.

The specimen from which Mr. Goodchild made his studies for the plate, was one of five which reached this country alive, a year or more ago. There were two Amethyst-rumped and three Purples (one adult ♂ one ♀, and one young ♂). When they reached me (for to my sorrow I bought the lot), the two Amethyst-rumped were I could see too far gone to recover and died almost on arrival and the hen Purple very soon travelled the same road. The two remaining birds I kept for some considerable time, for the greater part of which they were in the same cage together, until they commenced to fight in real earnest, when of course I at once separated them, but soon after the full plumaged bird died, very probably from the effects of a blow from his rival, and I was left with the most costly bird I ever exhibited, and I do not like even now to think of what I paid for the five Sunbirds.

The survivor still lives, and is a charming bird in every sense, of course he needs to be well looked after, but it is well worth the trouble. The plate illustrates its great beauty; Mr. Dewar has dilated upon its charming song and demeanour, therefore there is no need for me to occupy further space, save to say that my bird's demeanour fully confirms all he has said, that is, so far as this be possible within the limits of a cage.

THE GREAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER: I have had this bird about two years and it is the only specimen of its kind I have ever seen. It appears to be quite hardy and very easy to keep; I simply feed it the same as my Nightingales, as it does not care for any kind of fruit or sop. In deportment it is very like our British Flycatchers. A description of the bird is quite unnecessary with Mr. Goodchild's life-like portrait of the bird before us.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh, Punjab).

BY CAPT. G. A. PERREAU, F.Z.S.

BULBULS. The Himalayan Black Bulbul *(Hypsipetes psaroides)* is common in small flocks in the Station in spring and autumn, going but very little lower down in the winter and but little higher up in the summer. The above rather gives the impression that this bird is practically a resident species, which is by no means the case, as I have seen it at over 8,000 feet and at a bit under 5,000 on the same day in summer, and it goes down in winter almost into the plains.

It is a cheery, noisy bird, with a variety of calls. In Black Bulbul country one is pretty safe to attribute a strange note to this bird. One of the calls is very like the bleating of a kid, in some parts the natives call it the Goat-bird. As a rule it frequents the tops of high forest trees, in summer at any rate, but of course the food supply regulates its habits. It feeds chiefly on berries and fruit, though it probably goes in for insect diet during the breeding season. Still even at that season I have found it ignore a tree-trap (my own invention or rather adaptation) baited with a meal-worm or caterpillar when it was readily captured in a similar trap baited with berries. In captivity it takes readily to and seems to do well on bread and milk. The natives do not appear to kee*b* this species but that, as my friend Mr. Appleby thinks, is probably because they are not easy to catch. However, Mr. Kennedy and I found the flue-net most effective and we soon had the half-dozen he had decided on taking home with him. I hope they have arrived safely by now, though I doubt if they were worth the trouble. It is an aviary—rather than a cage-bird. It is a size larger than the Red-vented Bulbul, which is in turn larger than the White-cheeked or the Whiskered. Its elegant shape and its bright coral-red beak and feet, which so admirably set off it's rather sombre colouring, give it a handsome dandified appearance, hardly to be expected from reading the description of it's plumage.* Top of the head with a short crest and line round the grey ear-coverts are black; the rest of the plumage grey with a bluish tinge, darker on upper parts. Length about 10 inches; tail, which is distinctly forked, about 4.6 inches.

It breeds from April to June. The nest is placed in a fork, generally at a good height up, and is constructed of grass and leaves, bound together with cobweb and sometimes fine roots; it is a more substantial structure than the nests of other Bulbuls I have found. The clutch seems to be four eggs or two young as a rule, which strikes me as curious. One would think that wild birds would rear all or none, the latter must be an event of frequent occurrence. The Hill Oak seems to be a favourite nesting resort.

The Punjab Red-vented Bulbul *(Molpastes intermedius)*. This, the most handsome variety of the Red-vented that I have seen, is fairly common throughout the year in the Station, especially the lower parts. I do not think that it is at all migratory, unlike the White-cheeked, which though extremely common with us at all seasons, moves up and down a good deal, though he too might better be termed a vertical migrant. It is one of the few birds kept in captivity in Chamba and then only for fighting. In the aviary I have not found it pugnacious, nor over interesting. Mr. Kennedy knew of one that lived over fourteen years in captivity on a very simple diet. This period included several voyages between England and India, this bird at any rate must have been of interest to its owner.

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*I can fully endorse this, as I possessed one for twelve months, which unfortunately met with a tragic end—a strange dog forced its way into the aviary, and this was the one bird killed Its graceful form and handsome appearance made it at once one of the most striking birds in the aviary. This specimen was presented to me by Mr. E. W. Harper, who introduced this species to English aviculture.—Ed.

It breeds from May to July, and sometimes even later; the nest is usually in a thick thorn bush rather low down, and occasionally on the ground; it is not so flimsy as that of the White-cheeked, and the usual clutch is three.

General colour, browns of different shades, lighter beneath. Under tail-coverts red; short thick bushy crest black. Length 8 inches; tail 4.3.

The White-cheeked Bulbul *(Molpastes leucogenys)* is quite our commonest bird. It is at times a positive nuisance, especially at the end of the winter, when the gardens attract hundreds, green stuff being scarce elsewhere. For some time I practically fed a Barred Jungle Owlet on them, other people were shooting them then, so my conscience left me at peace. It is a simple feeder, living chiefly on fruit and berries, but, by no means despising insects at any time of the year. It's range in summer is from about 3,000 to over 7,000 and in winter from about 5,000 down to the edge of the plains. It breeds from April to July attempting three broods a year, of which I should say it successfully brings off at least two broods of three each. The nest is a loose flimsy affair which is much stronger than it appears to be, as it is made of grass stems, and tough bits of stalk of climbing "clingy" plants. It is often placed in most exposed and apparently absurd positions. The young return to the nest for the night, for some time after first venturing abroad. In spite of its faculty for getting caught in any sort of trap, and it's habit of building silly looking sort of nests (which by the way seldom seem to come to any harm); this bird is no fool and I fancy its natural enemies—hawks, mongooses, &c., often have occasion to curse it heartily, as it not only sees that it is not caught itself but, passes on the warning that an enemy is about for a long way off. The "Curlcrest" as Mr. Finn aptly names it, is by no means on the road to extermination.

This bird is an adept at feigning injury to distract attention from it's nest. I will only mention one exceptionally good one, which deceived me, though I knew of the nest, and, had seen these same birds pretending before. When I got near the nest the hen (at any rate we'll call her the hen) uttered a shriek of agony and fell fluttering from the top of a tree near by. This was according to the rules of the game, but the cock now took a hand and settled on a low branch near where she had fallen, uttering cries of anxiety and alarm. I really thought that there was something wrong and went to the place, only a few yards off. The nature of the ground prevented my investigating too closely at once, and while I was hesitating I heard the hen and saw her fluttering with difficulty along the edge of the hedge on the ground past the nest, the cock following her anxiously in the hedge above. Of course I now saw that I was being had, but followed them fast enough to keep the game going. They took me about thirty yards away and then quietly vanished. For the benefit of my wife I made them do the trick again that afternoon and again the next day. After that they ignored my attempts, evidently spotting that the deception had become useless. Still I fear that they did not trust me too much as their young left the nest earlier than they should have and did not return. I hope they did well, but, young birds that leave the nest too soon take grave risks.

I often wonder that more Bulbuls have not been bred in captivity, in the United Kingdom, as there would be no climatic drawbacks to success with any of the three species I have mentioned. I can't say they are particularly interesting but, any bird gains in interest when breeding or pretending to do so. The last named is distinctly a bird to catch the eye, on account of it's crest and sprightly carriage. The upper parts are olive brown; the lower parts lighter brown; ear-coverts white; the under tail-coverts are sulphur yellow. Length nearly 8 inches, tail 3.5

To be continued.

Freely Imported Species and Their Treatment.

By J. Sumner Marriner.

PARRAKEETS.

The Aviaries : My aviaries consist of a wire run some twenty yards long, ten feet wide, and seven feet high, except in the middle, where a square, which I call the Tower, of some ten feet each way, runs up about twelve feet high, giving a raised coign of vantage, which overlooks and is also visible from all sides. This position the birds greatly like, even on the coldest days.

There is a covered shed at the western end, and a substantial hut shelter in the other eastern portion: and in the latter, well lighted with glass windows, I keep the seeds and most of the hoppers.

The aviary stands at the top of the garden, and is sheltered all round by an old stone wall, and, facing south gets all the sun there is, in fact the situation is excellent. But the stone wall forms a safe hiding place for numberless mice to the detriment of my seed bill. Under the north wall are wooden roof shelters about two feet wide running along some two thirds of the back of the aviary.

Last year I had a mixed lot of English and Foreign birds: English Finches, Budgerigars, and single pairs of Cockateels, Pennants, Rosellas, Red-rumps, and Black-cheeked Lovebirds. The result was most unsatisfactory, as so many birds were killed by the Parrakeets, the main offenders being, I think, the Red-rumps.

This year I determined to wire off in the tower and the eastern end, the pairs of Parrakeets above mentioned, by themselves, shutting off the Tower on its western side. The smaller western portion I reserved for Canaries, a Goldfinch, and one pair of Black-cheeked Lovebirds.

RED-RUMP PARRAKEETS: These have already fully reared two young. The hen laid her first egg on March 28th, and began to sit on a clutch of four eggs on April 1st. She hatched out three chicks on April 20th, one of the eggs being infertile; but one of the chicks died in the nest, the other two proved to be both males. Young Red-rumps seem very loth to leave the nest, and the first of these did not do so until the 25th of May, being then about five weeks old. Both seem very strong and healthy birds.

These Red-rumps nested this year, as last, in a large coconut husk, which the hen scratches out a good deal before she lays. She would appear to be a good deal cramped.

PENNANT AND ROSELLA PARRAKEETS: My great hopes for this year are to do something with the Pennants, or the Rosellas, or both.

They have choice of five oyster tubs about one and a half feet long slung lengthwise, half boarded at one end and some third filled with sawdust, and also of two trade nest boxes—square boxes with a hole in the front and a hollowed bottom to prevent eggs from rolling about, for nesting purposes. This year they have taken considerable notice of the tubs, particularly of a large one, slung right up in the open wire roof of the Tower. They are constantly in and out of this and the others ; and much chatter and some quarrelling goes on between the four birds ;* but unfortunately the cock Pennant seem to have taken a fancy to the Hen Rosella. He follows her about in preference to his proper mate ; and I have several times seen him feeding her, she seeming quite to reciprocate his attentions. But this, his selection, leaves the other two unattached, as they show no sign of any intention to console each other for the desertion of their proper mates.

Whether I shall have any luck at all with either of these pairs this year seems at present doubtful.

PROLIFIC COCKATEELS : My Cockateels are a most prolific pair. I think they hatched out last year three clutches of four to six each. Last X'mas they hatched out four, which despite the weather all left the nest, and, after growing very slowly at first owing to the cold, became quite normal and strong young birds by the spring. One couple of these have gone to the Treloar Cripples' Home. They were sitting on another clutch of four eggs as soon as the X'mas birds were out of the nest, but of these only two were hatched—very healthy birds.

They now (June 1st) have a further batch of six strong birds just ready to leave the nest. There must have been eight eggs as I removed one dead bird about a week after they were hatched, and there was one infertile egg in addition.

Since December therefore this one pair has nested thrice, laid sixteen eggs, and hatched out and fully reared one dozen young, all strong birds. There should be no difficulty, not even to the novice, in breeding Cockateels, that is, if my experience is at all usual.‡ I have had the male bird some four years.

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*Pennants and Rosellas seldom agree together during the nesting period and unless the respective pairs are separated, I fear there will be some disaster, before that season is completed.—ED.

‡Individual pairs are very erratic, some pairs seem only to play at nesting, laying fertile eggs *galore*, yet sit so loosely that only an occasional youngster is fully reared—again many other pairs are very prolific. The above deduction is only based on instances where the accommodation given to the respective pairs was all that could be desired.—ED.

They have nested regularly in an oyster tub at the eastern end of the aviary, which seems to be recognised by the other birds as their particular property, and when there are young I move the nestlings after about ten days into a fresh tub, and clean out the old one and refill it one third full with sawdust, for the next nest after the young leave the tub.

BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS: The pair of Black-cheeks—placed this April with the Canaries in the western division of the aviary—at first showed little signs of breeding, in fact I was quite uncertain if they were a true pair. However later, matters developed, but with disagreeable consequences to the Canaries, for a nestling of one pair was killed by the Black-cheeks just as it was about ready to leave the nest, and they also commenced attacking another nest.

I then removed them into a very large outdoor cage, some four feet wide by five high and two deep, and here by themselves, and well provided with husks and small travelling cages for nest boxes; and moss, hay, fine tree roots, and light twigs for material, they appear to be settling down. One of the nest boxes already shows signs of their architectural fancies being exercised.

All the above birds have wintered out, in perfect health and tightness of feather, throughout the cold weather with no artificial heat. When the Pennants began to moult last August they were both very seedy and I thought I should certainly lose them; but I brought them indoors in a cage, and a course of Parrish's Chemical Food, Epsom Salts, and bread sop, well sweetened with brown sugar, quite restored them, and they have never ailed since, and all the eight Parrakeets are in first class fettle and plumage.

Very fortunately for this North Country the situation is excellent, as the aviary stands on ground sloping to the South, and is sheltered on all its other sides by the old garden wall some eight feet high.

MENU: I give my Parrakeets—canary, white millet, white sunflower, hemp, and inga seeds; also fowl corn consisting of wheat, oats, and maize, of which they are very fond, particularly the wheat. They also get Monkey and shelled Hazel Nuts—all in separate receptacles. They of course get green food.

The water supply is in a cement bath emptying out through a lead pipe. The Pennants and Red-rumps particularly make good use of the bath, and are often soaked through with their splashings, and, quite heavy with wet even on quite cold days.

THE MICE PEST : Can anyone tell me how to exterminate mice in such a situation as mine, with the stone wall for a breeding ground—part of the wall is cemented, but not all ? The wire is unfortunately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch mesh.

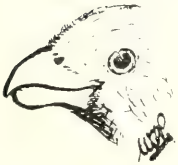
FOR FUTURE GUIDANCE : If I am aviary building again —as I hope I may be—I should work towards large separate compartments for each breeding pair, at least for the larger species ; for my small experience is that real success is only possible on these lines. In fact "*divide et impera*" should be the motto of the aviculturist, for any attempt to play the part of the "*deus et machina*," once for the season you have established your aviary conditions, is always tempting but everlastingly fatal.

Foreign Birds.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

EUPHONIINÆ. *(Continued from page 142).*

HYPOPHOEA: This genus, consisting of but one species differs from *Euphonia* in its longer tail, heavy bill, without any trace of dentations in the upper mandible. This divergence from *Euphonia* is most pronounced in the lower mandible as will be seen in the accompanying rough sketch I made from a skin at the Museum, some time ago. It ranges over South Eastern Brazil.



GREEN-THROATED TANAGER *(Hypophœa chalybea).* I am not aware of living specimens of this species having been imported to this country. While a handsome bird, it is not of such graceful form as most of the TANAGRIDÆ, having an almost Grosbeak-like appearance, nevertheless, quite apart from its rarity, it would form a welcome addition to the avicultural list. The same food and treatment given to Euphonias would doubtless meet the requirements of the Green-throated Tanager. It would probably be better in the garden aviary than in a cage; in the latter its robust build would be very apparent, but in the roomy aviary, the general proportion of things levels this up. The principal requirements of such an aviary would be, a spacious flight with a roomy and well lighted shelter shed attached to it.

Adult Male: Upper surface bluish-green, with a bronzy sheen; forehead yellow; with the exception of the upper throat, which is bronzy-green, the entire under surface is yellow; bill blackish, with a plumbeous sheen; feet deep brown. Total length 5 inches, tail $1\frac{5}{8}$.

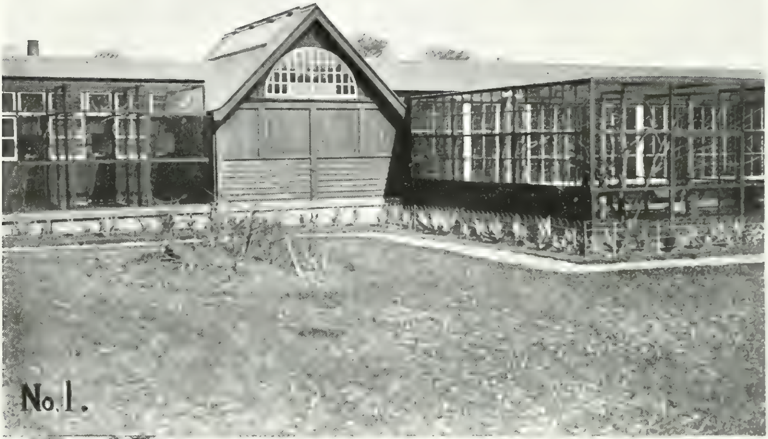
Female: Upper surface olive, tinged with yellow on the forehead, rump, and margins of wing and tail feathers; under surface ashy-grey, washed with yellowish on the sides of breast, flanks, and vent; other parts as male.

PYRRHUPHONIA: The single species of this genus comes much nearer the typical *Euphonia* in appearance than the preceding species. It differs from *Euphonia* in a thickened bill, which, however, is not nearly so elongated as in *Hypophæa*, and the hook of the upper mandible is also not so pronounced. The form is peculiar to Jamaica, and I propose giving it the trivial name of Jamaican Grey Tanager, one of its ancient trivial names being Grey Grosbeak.

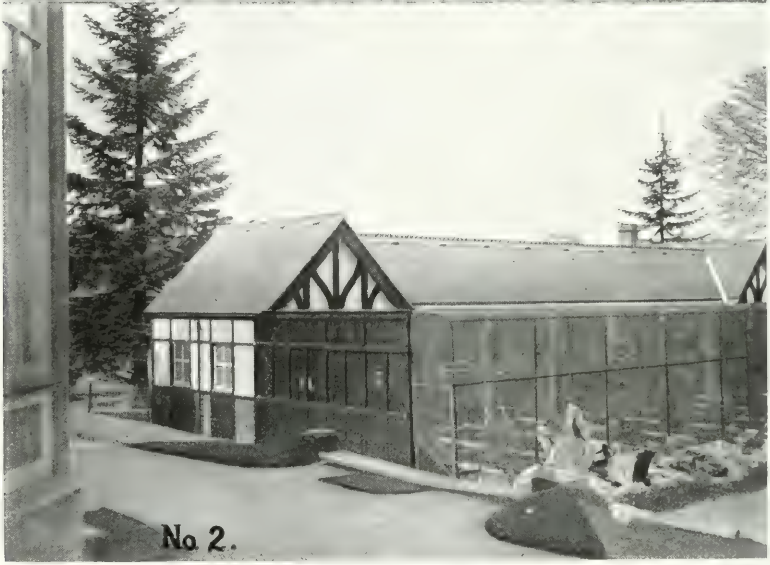
JAMAICAN GREY TANAGER *(Pyrrhuphonia jamaica)*. This interesting species was imported last year by our esteemed members Messrs. Sutcliffe, and Suggitt, several pairs being brought over, but unfortunately they did not prove long-lived in this country, the season too—a very bad one—was all against them, both *en route* and on arrival. Mr. A. Sutcliffe found them quite numerous, along with other species feeding on a fruit called Guava, a fruit about the size of a walnut, with a yellowish skin and pink inside, and very similar in formation to a Gooseberry.

Gosse describes this in "Birds of Jamaica" under the name of Blue Quit, and according to him it is a most entertaining bird to watch, no position seems to come amiss to it when foraging for food, and when thus engaged is very Tit-like in its demeanour. The nest is a domed one, built among the parasitic *Tillandsiæ* on the trees.

Adult Male: The general colouration is bluish-grey, much paler on the under-surface; middle of abdomen yellowish; vent whitish; outer tail feathers pale-yellowish; inner webs



No. 1.



No 2.

Photo by E. J. Brook

Hoddam Castle Aviaries.

Note: Nos. 2 and 3 figure same range of Aviaries of wing feathers white; bill blackish, with a plumbeous sheen; feet brown. Total length $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches, tail $1\frac{3}{8}$.

Female: Greenish-grey above; bluish-grey on top of head; entire under surface pale bluish-grey, tinged on the flanks with green. Bill and feet as male.

The EUPHONIINÆ are not among the most satisfactory of birds known to aviculturists; attractive and handsome they certainly are, moreover most of the species have a really good song, but, alas! they are not by any means long-lived in captivity, and so far as my experience goes, the hens appear to be more robust than the males. I have come to the conclusion that in the winter they need warm quarters, while during the summer months they certainly need the freedom of the outdoor aviary. A birdroom fitted up as a winter garden and kept at a minimum temperature of 50 to 55 deg. (F.) should suit them admirably, as well as forming suitable winter quarters for many other species—so kept during the winter and turned out of doors as soon as the weather becomes settled, some of the species should soon be bred—I hope some of our members able to give this accommodation will make the attempt. I hope to do so myself another season. Plants should be chosen for their winter quarters which, will thrive in a dryish atmosphere.

To be continued.

The Aviaries and Birds at Hoddam Castle.

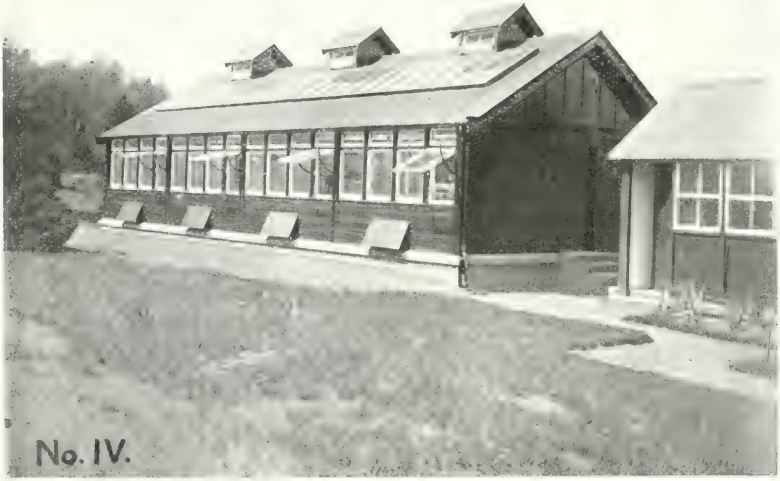
By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

By the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Brook I recently (May 4 to 6) had the pleasure of seeing the unique collection of birds at Hoddam Castle, and with their permission I am describing them, and am assured that not only will the record be of great interest, but very practical also, with the aid of the photos kindly taken by Mr. Brook, and the ground plans, the latter prepared from details supplied by the aviary attendant, Mr. Shannon. I should add that the photos were taken with a hand camera, and though only small, yet definition is very clear, and instead of having them enlarged and only using two, I have decided to reproduce the four, same size as taken.

It will be seen that all the ranges of aviaries are of handsome appearance and form quite a feature of the gardens. The aviaries are surrounded by long reaches of grass, and grand specimens of conifers, pines, etc. In front of the principal range is the beautiful rock garden, which though of somewhat recent formation, was already giving promise of a unique display of rare Alpine and other flowers. In the midst of the aviaries is set the Bear House, a substantial circular structure of 20 feet diameter, with a shelter attached--it contained a young Himalayan Bear, which was very amiable and evidently quite a pet with Mr. and Mrs. Brook and the attendant.

The photos and plans figure the aviaries very clearly and it is mainly their furnishings and general arrangement that call for description. In the way of food and water hoppers, baths, etc., these are of the normal type, each compartment is amply supplied, and the aviary attendant is continually " on the prowl " among his charges, to remove and replace fouled food and water, and to keep up supplies. The aviary kitchen is an important feature, and here are utensils of every kind for the preparation of such foods as milk sop, fruit syrups, insectile mixture, and one can only say that from " A " to" Z " all details are very complete and hygienic. No expense has been spared to achieve this, or is spared to provide the birds with such foods as will conduce to their general well being.

A talk with Mr. Brook, after we had done the round of the aviaries, showed how anxious he was in this respect and that absolutely nothing procurable should be lacking for the birds' comfort—I also gleaned that up to the present no attempt had been made to supply any of the Birds of Paradise with *natural* nesting quarters, as so far they had given no signs of inclination to go to nest, and their compartments had been designed so as to give them space for exercise and also for the birds to be mostly on view—and again that it was not always easy to secure them in true pairs. This object has been well achieved, both the inner and outer compartments meet this need fully and even when confined to the inner compartment (during severe weather only) their quarters could never be termed prisons, and the birds are quite at home in them—each compartment contains a nest box or platform



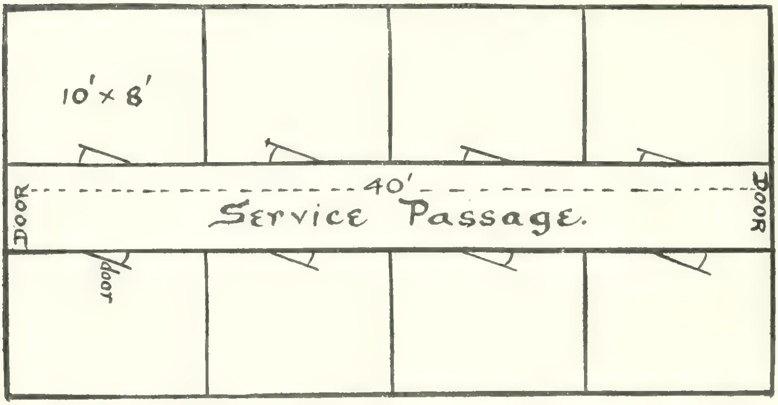
Photos by E. J. Brook.

Hoddam Castle Aviaries.
No. 3. Range of Aviaries,
containing Birds of Paradise and Lories.
No. IV. Small Birds' House
(*Note system of Ventilation*).

of some kind, according to the requirements of the respective species, but so far none of these had been made use of. However, this reproach can no longer hold good as on the day I left, the hen Rifle Bird dropped an egg from the perch, and the following day a second one—both being broken. I am sure all our members will join with me in congratulating Mr. Brook on this unique event, and in the wish that young of this fine species may soon be reared in his aviaries.

The general plan of all the aviaries is very similar, though the flights of some vary in size, according to their occupants. It will be seen that in the inner compartments, a service passage runs the entire length of each range of aviaries, with several doors arranged at intervals of about 20 feet to prevent draught. There is an entrance from this passage to each aviary, and again an entrance from the inner to the outer compartment, in the centre of this latter door, is a small hole (similar to entrances in a pigeon-loft), with platform, by which the birds have egress and ingress. These entrances are very distinct in one of the photo-reproductions. The flights are mostly grass and only one or two contain growing trees, but are well furnished with perches and natural branches. It will be seen that the ranges of houses, which form the shelters, are substantial and decorative—they certainly harmonise well with their surroundings. Each range has an efficient heating surface of hot-water pipes and radiators. The flights are all constructed of iron framing and hand-woven wirework, and are about 12 feet high.

The Small Birds' House (Photo No. 4) is excellently arranged (see plan), every care has been taken to secure ample light, as well as shade, and each compartment contains either growing trees, or suitable branches, planted in large pots and tubs. The various flights contained Gouldian, Parrot and other Finches, Tanagers, Sugar Birds, and several Birds of Paradise. Some of these flights are to be fitted up for Sunbirds, which are due to arrive about the end of May; they should do well in these enclosures, and with the fruit syrups, sops, and unlimited and varied supply of fruit, their life should be long and happy, for it appeared to me that nothing could be wanting to secure this, as I surveyed the quarters intended for their reception.



Small Birds' House – Hoddam Castle.
Scale. One inch = Ten feet ——— See photo No. 4.

Before leaving the aviaries, and passing on to the birds, I should say, that "spic-and span" cleanliness prevailed, and the quiet and tasteful interior decoration of white and pale green was in complete accord with the picturesque exterior; and the whole forming a fitting setting to the unique and rare collection of birds occupying them. I must leave the birds to be described in next issue, merely closing my (very inadequate) remarks, of these really palatial aviaries with a list of their principal inhabitants.

PARADISEIDÆ

3 Lawe's B. of P. *(Epimarchus meyeri).*

2 pairs Meyer's B. of P. *(Epimarchus meyeri).*

Princess Stephanie's, B. of P. *(Astrachia stephaniæ)*—2 pairs and 2 young in immature plumage.

1 pair Greater B. of P. *(Paradisea apoda).*

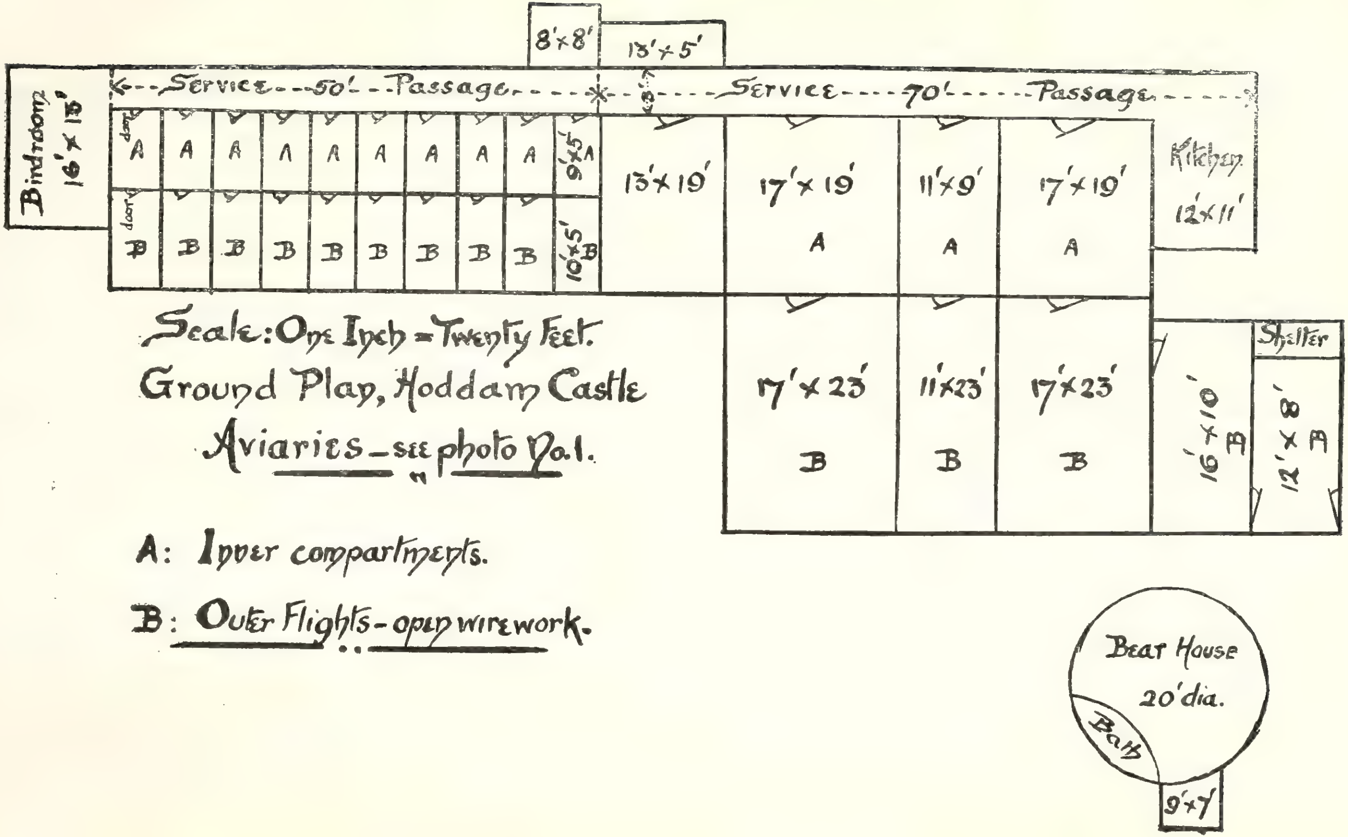
2 ♂ Count Raggi's B. of P. *(Paradisea raggiana).*

2 ♂ Prince Rudolph's B. of P. *(Paradisornis rudolphi).*

1 ♀ and 1 ♂ (?) King B. of P. *(Cicinnurus regius).*

5 ♂ (3 immature) Lesser Superb B. of P. *(Lophorihna superba-minor).*

3 ♂ Hunstein's Magnificent B. of P. *(Diphyllodes magnifica).*


8'×8'
13'×5'
Birdroom 16'×13'
Service - - - 50' - - Passage
Service - - - - 70' - - - - Passage
door
door
A
A
A
A
A
A
A
A
A
9'×5' A
B
B
B
B
B
B
B
B
B
10'×5' B
13'×19'
17'×19' A
11'×9' A
17'×19' A
Kitchen 12'×11'
17'×23' B
11'×23' B
17'×23' B
16'×10' A
Shelter
12'×8' A
Bear House 20' dia.
Bath
9'×7'

Scale: One Inch = Twenty Feet.
Ground Plan, Hoddam Castle
Aviaries—see photo No. 1.

A: Inner compartments.

B: Outer Flights—open wirework.

1 ♀ D'Albertis' B. of P. *(Depranornis albertisi).*

1 pair New Guinea Rifle Birds *(Ptilornis intercedens).*

1 ♂ Violet and Green Manucode *(Manucodia purpureo-violacea).*

LORIIDÆ.

3 ♂ and 1 ♀ Fair Lories *(Charmosynaopsis pulchella).*

2 pairs and 1 young (unsexed) Black Lories *(Chalcopsittacus ater).*

3 ♂ and 1 ♀ Stella's Lories *(Charmosyna stellæ).*

1 ♂ Yellow-backed Lory *(Lorius flavopalliatus).*

1 ♂ Red-fronted Lory *(Chalcopsitticus scintillatus).*

1 ♀ Black-winged Lory *(Eos cyanogenys).*

1 ♀ Red-breasted Lory *(Lorius erythrothorax).*

1 pair Brook's Lorikeet *(Trichoglossus brooki).*

1 pair Red-naped Lorikeet *(Trichoglossus rubritorques).*

Hanging Parrakeets *(Lorius indicus).*

PSITTACIDÆ.

Malaccan Parrakeets *(Palæornis longicauda).*

Blossom-headed Parrakeets *(Palæornis cyanocephalus).*

Rock-Pebblar Parrakeets *(Polytelis melanura).*

Barnard's Parrakeets *(Barnadius barnardi).*

Pennant's Parrakeets *(Platycercus elegans).*

Pileated Parrakeets *(Platycercus spurius).*

MUSOPHAGIDÆ.

1 Fraser's Turaco *(Turacus macrorhynchus).*

1 ♂ and 2 ♀ Red-crested Turaco *(Turacus erythrolophus).*

A few Grassfinches, Tanagers, Barbets, Sugarbirds, and Toucans are also kept and will be referred to later.

There is also a large paddock of some acres in extent, given up to Rheas and Cranes—the former were booming and showing other indications of a desire to set up house-keeping; while as to the latter, a hen White-naped had forsaken her own mate, and paired up with an odd Indian Sarus Crane, and on May 15th was engaged in the duties of incubation.

(To be Continued).

Book Notices and Reviews.

CANARIES, HYBRIDS, AND BRITISH BIRDS IN CAGE AND AVIARY.—Cassell and Co. In monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part XV. An excellent coloured plate—figuring Tree Creeper, Ray's Wagtail, Skylark, and Meadow Pipit—forms the frontispiece. The text consists of the chapters on "The German and Roller Canary"; "British Finch and Canary Hybrids"; "Breeding Finch-Canary Hybrids" and "Hybrids Between Two British Birds." The text is illustrated with figures of typical and notable specimens of the varieties dealt with in the text. An interesting, practical and comprehensive part.

MY FOREIGN DOVES AND PIGEONS.—By Miss Rosie Alderson. London. Mrs. Comwyns-Lewer, 4 Arundel Street, Strand, W.C. 3s. 6d. net.

To all interested in Foreign Doves and Pigeons, this handbook by our esteemed member should be specially welcome. It is certainly one of the most practical and interesting we have read—from cover to cover it is experience that speaks, for Miss Alderson only describes such species as she has actually kept, but as these number over 40 species, many of which have successfully reared young in her aviaries, it will be seen that the book is very comprehensive. The chapters on General Management, Housing, Feeding, Nesting, Packing and Sending Away,—Nursing in Sickness and Accident, are very full and complete. We really cannot praise it too highly—in fact all appertaining to keeping Foreign Doves and Pigeons in captivity is told in plain and simple language, from How to, and kind of aviary to build, to the minutest detail of their daily life. There are 100 illustrations of aviaries and birds, mostly photographic reproductions. We strongly advise all our readers to promptly secure a copy.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: It would appear that the present season would be a very successful one all-round, the past few weeks of really warm weather should mean the successful rearing of many interesting broods, though some districts have been visited by heavy storms, by which several nests were flooded and broods perished.

DIUCA FINCHES AND MEXICAN BUNTINGS: Our esteemed member Capt. G. Rice, achieves the first notable success in two instances. I think he is entitled to the Club's Medal for breeding these two species, on sending in as detailed an account as possible of his success. On May 21st the young Diucas and Mexican Buntings were on the wing and flying strongly. If any member knows of any previous record of the rearing of the young, of either of these species, will they kindly send in particulars at once—otherwise Capt. Rice is entitled to the medals.

SILVER-EARED MESIAS: Our esteemed member M. Pauvvels, of Belgium, is entitled to the Club Medal, for breeding this species for the first time in captivity. One young bird left the nest on .... and is now flying strongly all over the aviary—two were hatched out, but one left the nest prematurely during a storm, got wedged in the fork of a bush, and died before its predicament was discovered. I have seen the body of this youngster it was fully fledged, save that the quill and tail feathers were short. The following is a rough description. It was too far gone for preservation, even out of doors it was decidedly "high."

Crown black; forehead, chin, throat, neck, breast and sides of body grey; middle of abdomen and vent white; ear-coverts hoary-white; back and wings dark grey, suffused with olive-green; margins of outer webs of quills pale olive-green; tail feathers olive-green above, rusty brown beneath; bill, upper mandible blackish-horn colour, lower yellowish-horn colour; legs and feet pinkish-flesh colour.

We congratulate these members on their successes.

In the Everberg Aviaries a Fraser's Turaco, paired to a cock White-crested Turaco, laid an egg on May 30th. The following species are either engaged in duties of incubation or feeding young: Bourk's, Adelaide, Barnard, Stanley, and King Parrakeets; Peach-faced and Guiana Lovebirds; and quite a number of nests of Blue, Blue and Green, and Blue and Yellow Budgerigars; Painted and Long-tailed Grassfinches; and last, but not least, Stella's Lorikeets. So far the only young on the wing are Cockateels, Blood-rumps, common Thrushes, and Blackbirds. A new acquisition is probably the Gorgeted Bird of Paradise, but it is not definitely identified yet.

PILEATED FINCHES: Our esteemed member Dr. J. Easton Scott has a young Pileated Finch on the wing: the successful rearing of the young of this species is quite uncommon, I think this is only the second instance of their doing so. Blue Tanagers incubating and Grey-winged Ouzels feeding.

NEW GUINEA RIFLE BIRD LAYING EGGS IN CAPTIVITY: Of this unique event in the Hoddam Castle Aviaries, we gave a bare record in our last issue; in response thereto, our esteemed member Mr. W. Goodfellow—who collected and imported this particular pair of birds—kindly sends us the following interesting note

> "The nest and eggs of this same hen bird are in the Nat. His. "Museum. The natives brought her to me with her nest and eggs, as they "caught her while sitting. I was looking at the nest again the other day. "With the exception of a few strips of dead pardonus leaf it is composed "entirely of fibre, much resembling horse hair. It is probably the mid-"rib of the same leaf."

The following esteemed members have kindly sent us the following details:

Mr. Mathias: Painted and Ruficauda Finches incubating.

Mr. W. R. Temple: Tree Creepers incubating a clutch of five eggs, which are due to hatch on June 4.*

Miss M. E. Baker: Two young Red-crested Cardinals on the wing and fending for themselves.

PRIVATE CONSIGNMENTS: The following private consignments are to hand: By Mr. T. G. Nicolson, per his nephew, returning from Rio Janerio. The consignment consisted of about 70 birds, of which about 40 were landed alive, with the exception of a few *Cholorophorua viridis* all appeared to be doing well, when I had the pleasure of seeing them on May 29th. Some of them being immature, I was not able to identify. This difficulty was enhanced owing to the birds being all together in a large indoor flight, and a close examination impossible, some of them will probably prove to be new to aviculture. The following is as complete a list as it is possible to give at present.

Blue Grosbeaks, Brazilian Canaries (a species of Syealis), Violet and Dwarf Euphonias, also two other species not yet defined; Bluish Tanager (probably *T. cyano* ....s Bluish, White-throated, and Grey Finches; Torrid Seed Finch, Thick-billed Seed Finch, Cowbird, Black Tanager, other Spermophilæ and several unidentified Grosbeaks. I was interested and amused to find among this consignment 4 St. Helena Waxbills, actually imported from Rio Janeiro !

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*Four young were duly hatched out and are being well fed by their parents.

Mr. Willford has also recently received Violet-eared Waxbills, Quail Finches, Vinaceous Firefinch (♀), Lavender Finches, and Common Firefinches (♂), also Blue, Palm, and Violet Tanagers, Blue, Green, and Yellow-winged Sugarbirds, Toucans, and Toucanettes.

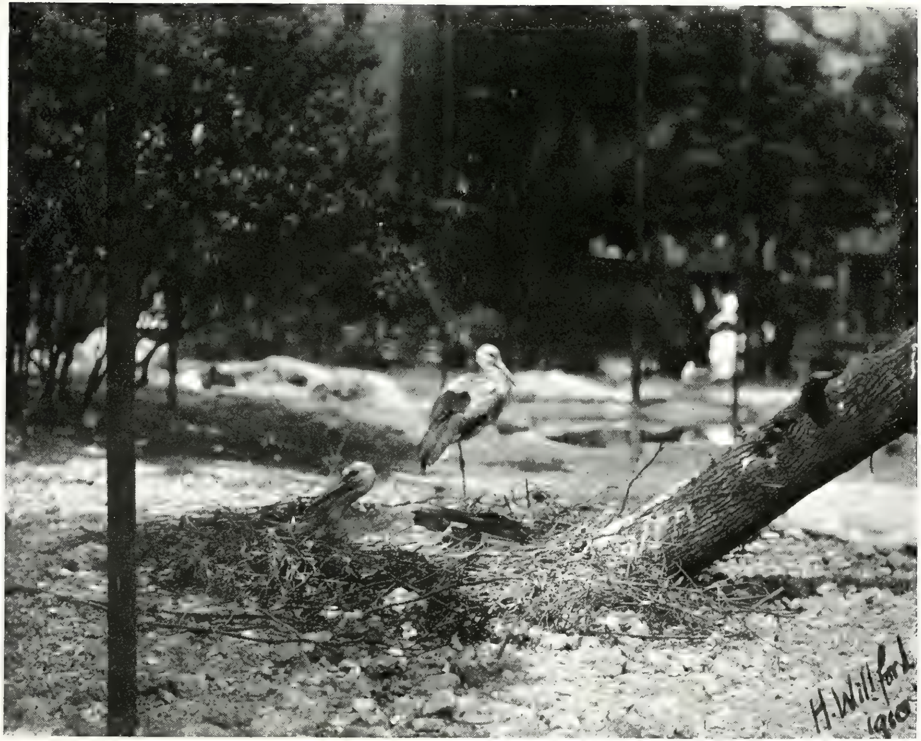
THE L. M. TRELOAR CRIPPLES' HOSPITAL AND COLLEGE AVIARIES: In addition to those already announced the following have been promised or sent:

8 Bengalese, Mr. W. R. Temple.
1 White Java Sparrow, Mr. W. R. Temple.
2 Cutthroats, Mr. W. R. Temple.
1 Pintail Nonpareil, Mr. W. R. Temple.
2 White Java Sparrows, Rev. H. A. Soames.
2 Green Budgerigars, Miss M. E. Baker.
1 Slender-bill Cockatoo, H. Snarey.
1 Rose-ringed Parrakeet, W. Oakey.

Our best thanks are extended to all who have donated birds, and we shall still be pleased to hear from others.

HATCHING OF A YOUNG STORK AT THE ZOO: During a recent visit to the Zoo we ascertained that a young Stork had been hatched out. The nest was built on the ground and four eggs were laid, but one disappeared during incubation, which lasted twenty-eight days. Two of the eggs proved infertile. The parents regurgitated the food from the crop into the nest, and it was then greedily eaten by the nestling. It lived to the eleventh day, when it died—a quantity of dried grass was found in its crop. This same pair built last year, but no chicks were hatched. Mr. Willford took a photo of the hen incubating, with her mate keeping guard. In connection with the above, it will probably prove of general interest, and we reproduce it herewith. I should add the day on which the photo was taken was very dull.

GARDEN AVIARY: We are glad to note these are becoming so common. We recently had the opportunity of seeing Mr. Warren Williams' natural aviary at Wallington. It has a southern aspect—the flight is about 25 feet long,


H. Willford
1910

Nesting of Storks. Gulls Aviary, London Zoo.

8 feet deep, and 8 to 9 feet high, it is planted with Hawthorn, Euonymus, Box, and other Shrubs—contains a shallow cement bath; attached thereto is a roomy and well lighted shelter shed; it runs along one side of the lawn, and is really quite a feature of the garden. Mr. Warren Williams is quite a new adherent to the cult of Foreign Bird keeping, but his series of about 40 birds—Finches, Mannikins, Waxbills, and Weavers—were all in excellent fettle; we noticed particularly some very nice Cordon Bleus, and Lavender Finches in excellent plumage. Young were on the wing of Bib, Ribbon, and Zebra Finches.

A UNIQUE CONSIGNMENT: Just on going to press we learn that Mr. Frost, who has been collecting Indian birds for our esteemed member Mr. E. J. Brook, has successfully landed some 700 birds, many of which are new and rare—the following are represented in the series: Harewas, Bulbuls, Finch-larks, Rollers, Rubythroats, Flycatchers, Redstarts, Thrushes, Drongos, Babblers, Maroon Orioles, Blood Pheasants, Pigmy Crakes, Chats, etc. Unfortunately all the Sunbirds died *en route*. Fuller details in next issue.

ERRATUM: Re title to frontispiece "deordar" should be *deodar*.

On page 142, last word of line 18 "Euphoniinoœ" should be *Euphoniinæ*.

On page 155, line 5: "transfer them alive in boxes" should read *transport them to this country alive in boxes.*

Correspondence.

DISPLAY OF THE LESSER BIRD OF PARADISE IN THE EVERBERG AVIARIES.

Sir,—I have just witnessed a most charming sight—a pleasure enjoyed by but very few, especially so, under the circumstances, and that is, the full courting display of a Lesser Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea minor*).

Sitting quietly at my office table—handfeeding a nest of Wrens—I was attracted by the call notes of a Paradise Bird, and as I had a good view of the entrance to the birdroom, I could see "what simply rivetted me to the spot." There, before my eyes was the Lesser Bird of Paradise in full display. I presume it was to the hen Raggiana in the next flight that caused "this labor of love." At any rate there he was with head erect, accompanied with slight rapid movements, uttering a low, continuously repeated call note; both wings outstretched, with quick, yet lightly flapping movements; the plumes beautifully and fully displayed in crescentic form from the mantle; then after a few moments, he would utter a few shrill call notes, a decided caw-caw, quickly repeated, with rapid movements and quite a little war dance along the perch, he threw his head right back almost touching the mantle, and with *body quite rigid*, as though seized with an apoplectic seizure, during which he held the perch tightly with his claws, he gave vent to his highly pitched call notes, and swaying his body, the beautiful delicate plumes fell all around him, showing to the fullest advantage the exquisite filigree slenderness of each separate plume. Regaining the former position, it again repeats the flapping of the wings, the display of the plumes, and low, oft repeated call, or cawing.

I am indeed proud of what I have seen to-day. I wish an abler pen than mine could have described, in fuller and more minute detail the sight. Rough as *my* notes are, they were taken during the display, and, though somewhat crudely expressed, they are accurate.

O. MILLSUM.

Everberg, June 2nd.

Post Mortem Reports.

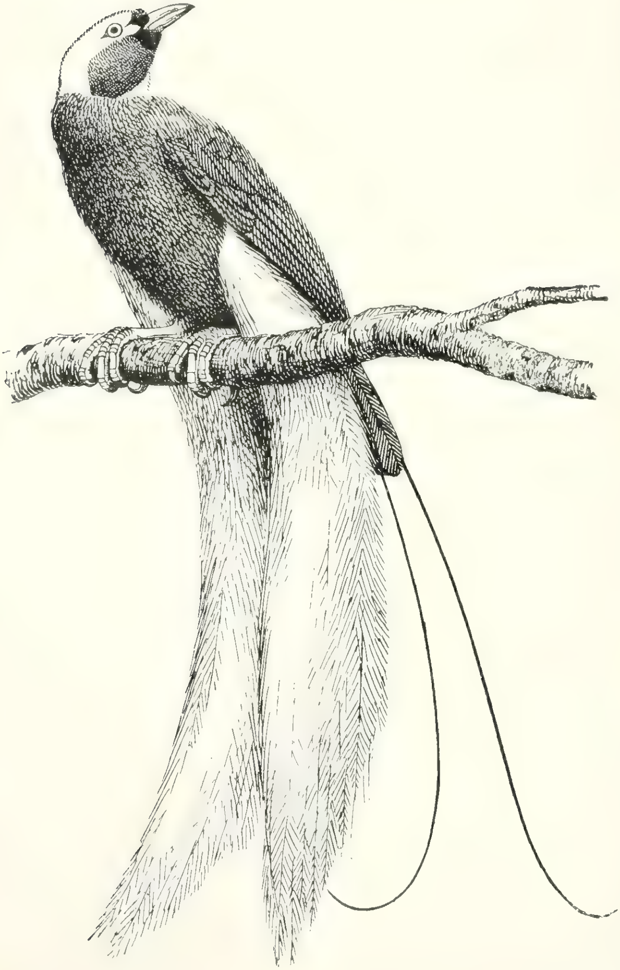
Vide Rules.

Hen Black Tanager. (Mrs. Scott, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey). The liver and kidneys were of a yellowish colour, and had undergone fatty degeneration. The brain was congested. Evidently death was due to the fit, with which the bird was seized. The diseased state of the liver and kidneys would, no doubt, set up the convulsions, which are a common ending of many bird maladies.

Cock Blue Budgerigar. (Mr. S. Beaty, Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Cheshire). This bird was during life affected with diarrhœa, which was in this case, symptomatic of catarrhal inflammation of the bowel, probably induced by a chill.

Cock Blue Tanager. (Mrs. E. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge). This bird's intestine was immensely distended by fœces, which gave the abdomen an enlarged appearance. There was also peritonitis, which had glued the coils of the intestine together. The liver had yellowish patches of fatty degeneration.

(Continued on page 45 *of Inset)*



The Great Bird of Paradise.
(*Paradisea apoda*).

From Life by H. Goodchild

All rights reserved. JULY, 1911.

BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Aviaries and Birds at Hoddam Castle.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

Continued from page 182.

The description already given of these numerous aviaries falls very far short of the reality, and the same must in a greater degree, apply to the following notes on the unique and rare series of birds which occupy them. Space will not permit me to enlarge upon them as I fain would do, but for the benefit of new members, I am figuring the Greater and Lesser Apodas and King Bird of Paradise—these have already appeared in *Bird Notes*, and are from drawings by Mr. H. Goodchild, from living birds. Most of the B. of P. described in these notes were collected and brought to this country by our esteemed member Mr. W. Goodfellow.

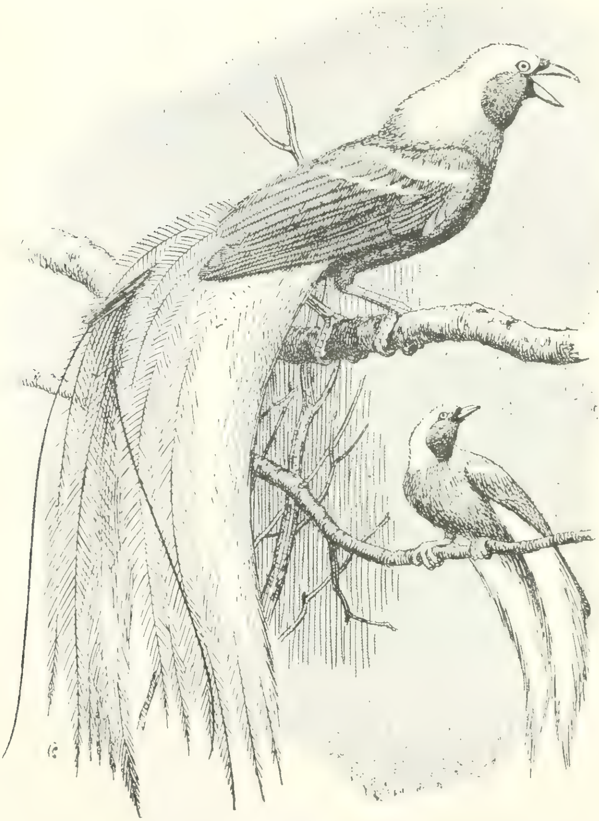
NEW GUINEA RIFLE BIRD *(Ptilorhis intercedens)*. This exquisite species is most active and I had an abundant opportunity of watching its deportment, though unfortunately I did not witness the courting display. On the day I left, this species laid an egg (dropped it from the perch), two others were also laid, but all were broken (see note on p. 185 of current vol.), since then a root has been supplied, which the hen has lined with leaves, etc., and hopes are entertained of another clutch being laid.

Mr. W. Goodfellow kindly informs me, in a letter dated June 30th, that two more eggs have been laid, but unfortuntately again, both are broken, although a beautiful nest was made in the honeysuckle of banana and bamboo leaves, and shavings.

This species haunts the denser scrub near a running stream; it is solitary in its habits, wild and shy, and not easy to shoot or capture.

Male: Above, mostly velvety black, with purplish reflections; wings black, with coverts and quills exteriorally glossed with steel-green; head and nape metallic green; lores, eyebrows, sides of face, cheeks, ear-coverts, and throat black, with purplish gloss; pectoral shield metallic green, glistening like the scales of a snake, followed by bands of velvety black and rich green, remainder of under surface dark purple; bill and legs black. Total length 11½ inches, tail 4½.

Female: Above, cinnamon-rufous; ashy-white below, with brown crescentic markings; eye-streak white, mottled with brown.

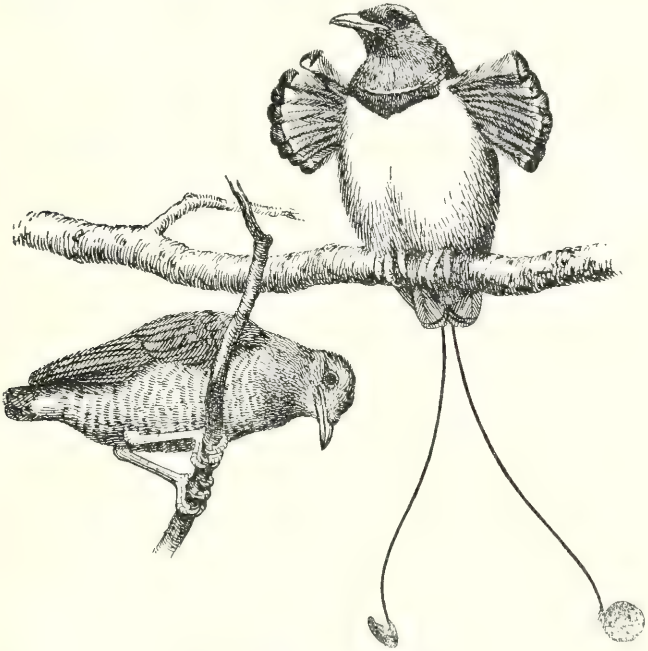


Lesser Bird of Paradise.

(*Paradisea minor*).

From life by H. Goodchild.

THE GREAT BIRD OF PARADISE (*Paradisea apoda*) is a gorgeous bird, but it has been several times described in our pages, and Mr. H. Goodchild's drawings must suffice both for this species and the LESSER BIRD OF PARADISE *(P. minor)*, both of which are truly gorgeous species and make a regal display when in nuptial dress.



King Bird of Paradise.
(*Cicinnurus regius*).

From life by H. Goodchild.

KING BIRD OF PARADISE *(Cicinnurus regius)*. A truly regal species, "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." This also has been previously described, but Mr. Goodchild's drawing most excellently figures contour and pose. Mr. Brook possesses 1 ♀ and 1 probable ♂ immature.

BLUE OR PRINCE RUDOLPH'S B. OF P. *(Paradisornis rudolphi)*. Of this truly gorgeous species Mr. Brook possesses two males. Space will not permit me to attempt a description of the marvellous blues on its plumage—no pen could describe these and even the artist's brush must fall short of the reality. This really applies to all the species, the plumage is ever changing, according to the angle at which the sun's rays fall upon it. The beauty of the blue side plumes is almost beyond human imagination. It is a native of S.E. New Guinea.

COUNT RAGGI'S B. OF P. *(P. raggiana)*. There are two males of this fine species, which most certainly, if one is to judge by their condition and demeanour are enjoying life, in spite of enforced bachelorship.

The male has the head and neck velvety straw-buff; forehead, ear-coverts, cheeks, and throat metallic green, with a narrow straw-coloured band across the lower throat; back and wings glossy rufous-brown; wing-coverts edged with straw-buff; fore neck and chest are covered by a shield of velvety purplish-brown, remainder of under surface rufous-brown; the flank feathers, forming two large tufts of plumes of richest crimson, with buffish tips; bill pearl grey; feet ruddy-brown; iris yellow. Total length 13½ inches, tail 5½. The female is mostly ruddy and purplish-brown, much paler below, with hind crown and neck straw-buff. She is smaller, and the hues of her plumage are duller than those of the male.

HUNSTEIN'S MAGNIFICENT B. OF P. *(Diphyllodes magnifica)*. Three males of this magnificent species in lovely plumage were to be seen disporting themselves in their quarters. As this species was figured in colour* and has been described more than once in our pages, further remark is not called for, but a sight of the male in full display is, well, " a sight for the gods."

LESSER SUPERB B. OF P. *(Lophorhina superba-minor)*. This resplendent species is represented by five specimens, unfortunately all males, three of which were mature and a sight to feast the eyes upon—their glistening plumage varying with position and each changing angle of light—a rapidly changing kaleidoscope of velvety black, and metallic hues of purple, green, blue, bronze, and coppery, making description impossible from the living bird; therefore I give the description of the adult male from the museum cat. *in extenso*.

" General colour above velvety black, somewhat glossed
" with bronzy purple; mantle produced into an elevated shield,
" composed of velvety black plumes, glossed under certain lights
" with bronze; wing coverts velvety black rather more distinctly
" glossed with purple than the back; quills and tailfeathers deep
" black, glossed with steel blue; lores and nasal plumes forming

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All notes as to wild life are taken from Sharpe's Monograph of the *Paradiseidæ*.

**Bird Notes,* Vol. I., N.S., November issue.

"an elevated crest of purplish feathers; crown of head, nape, "and hind neck spangled with metallic steel-coloured feathers, each "of which has a subterminal bar of purple; sides of face, sides "of neck, and entire throat deep coppery bronze; on the foreneck "and breast a pectoral shield of metallic green plumes, most of "which have a narrow edging of copper; remainder of undersurface "purplish black. Total length 9 inches, culmen 1.15, wing 4.55, "tail 3.6."

Mr. A. P. Goodwin, who met with the species, on the Owen Stanley Mountains, thus tersely describes them:

"At an altitude of 5,000 feet we came across this Superb Bird of Paradise, and as it fluttered about on the highest perch it could find, it looked no bigger than a butterfly."

LAWE'S SIX-PLUMED B. OF P. (*Parotia lawesi*). Another lovely species, which is well known to visitors to the London Zoo, is most interesting, as well as grotesque, when in display. This bird is principally rich purplish-black, with a surface like velvet—it is another case of light refraction, for according to play of light and changing position, it appears as if clad in a bronzy garment of many colours.*

Mr. A. P. Goodwin thus describes their habits:

"Our camp (height 4,000 feet) was near one of their playgrounds, and I had good opportunity of watching their movements. In form and habits it resembles the Silky Bower Birds. It has a similar bill, beautiful blue eyes and short legs, and like the Bower Bird is very cautious, restless and swift. It has also a similar flight—although *P. lawesi*, does not built a bower, still it has a play ground, where a number of these birds (from six to eight) may be found playing together."

I must content myself with a partial description of the male.

ADULT MALE. Mostly rich purplish velvety black, adorned on the crown with bars of metallic green, purple and blue, and on the lower throat and foreneck with a shield of metallic bronzy golden-copper, with reflections of steel-green, blue and purple; above the ear coverts are tufts of silky hair-like plumes, from which spring (three on each side) thread-like shafts with racket-like tips—these plumes the bird has the power of raising and extending forward—in fact during display their changing position is almost bewildering. The frontal plumes are purplish tipped with white, very stiff and capable of being extending forward over the upper mandible: bill and legs black, iris beautiful light blue. Total length 12½ inches, tail 5¼.

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*On June 29th I saw this species at the London Zoo, regaling itself on a Leithorix, which it had killed and partially eaten.

PRINCESS STEPHANIE'S B. of P. *(Astrachia stephaniæ).* Two pairs of this species adorn the H.C. aviaries, and the male with his caudal plumes, some 26 inches long, is a sight long to be remembered as he disports himself about the enclosure, and I venture to hope either Mr. Brook or Mr. Goodfellow will describe fully the courting display.

Male. Above it is mostly greenish-olive, with the rump and upper tail coverts blackish-olive; the quills black glossed with purple; tail feathers black, the inner ones with white shafts and a beautiful purplish gloss; head rich metallic green with purplish reflections; forehead, sides of face, throat and chest shining emerald green; ear coverts steel-blue, merging into purplish as they form a frill on each side of the nape; sides of neck and a broad band across the chest shining bronzy-olive, edged below with fiery copper; remainder of under plumage coppery-red. Total length 31 inches, tail 24 to 26.

Female. Dull olive-brown above, mottled with black; tail velvety black; head, throat, and foreneck black, lightly glossed with olive-green; rest of under plumage tawny-buff, barred across with black. Total length 20½ inches, tail 13.

D'ALBERTI'S SOUTHERN B. of P. (*D. cervinicauda*). Mr. Brook has only a female of this species. The extraordinary plumes and appendages of the male are well shown on a black and white plate (vide *Bird Notes*," Vol. VIII., p. 124), of *D. albertisi*, also the contour and plumage markings of the female, which are very similar in both species.

MEYER'S SICKLE-BILLED B. of P. *(Epimachus meyeri).* Two pairs of this species were to be seen in their respective enclosures, and one can only hope that they may soon attempt to breed, and that success may attend their efforts. The bill is long, slender, and curved.

Adult Male. The upper surface is rich velvety black with feathers of metallic coppery-green on the head, middle of back and rump; lores and sides of the head bronzy-green; underside of body, sides and flank plumes mouse-brown glossed with purple; sides of sheaths blackish with purple sheen and broadly tipped with blue and green; side and flank plumes tipped with a bar of rosy lilac.

Female. Upper surface brown; under surface greyish-buff with transverse brown markings.

The foregoing notes are utterly inadequate to do justice to these unique and rare PARADISEIDÆ, in fact each species needs an article to itself to fittingly describe it. I gleaned from Mr. Brook the following, as to their demeanour in captivity.

B. of P. do not require much heat, but they do require room for exercise and fresh air—they have a great dislike to a strong light.

All are insectivorous and frugivorous, but some are almost carnivorous, and will take as many mice as you choose to give them. A Willow Wren found its way into the enclosure of the Lesser Apoda—only the wings were left to tell the tale !

They are not difficult to keep in health, but their likes and dislikes as to fruits, etc., must be observed—nearly all are fond of privet, elder, and rowan berries.

Most of the species exhibit considerable intelligence, readily become tame, and then need watching as a caress from their powerful beaks means a possibly dangerous and painful blow.

I must leave my notes on the LORIIDÆ, PSITTACIDÆ, etc., for another instalment.

To be Continued.

The Breeding of Ruficaudas, Painted and Olive Finches, etc.

By Hayward W. Mathias.

In the last issue of " our " Journal is published a note to say that I had Painted and Ruficauda Finches nesting. Since that note appeared our worthy Editor writes to say he would like to have some details of my breeding operations, and since a request from Mr. Page is equivalent to a " Royal Command," I have of course the greatest possible pleasure in forwarding these notes. I should perhaps preface them by saying that since I leave my birds very much to their own devices during the nesting season, and interfere with them as little as possible, my notes must necessarily be more or less " sketchy," and will I fear therefore hardly come up to what Mr. Page asks for,—and that is that my breeding notes should be as diffuse as possible.

Perhaps at starting I may be allowed to say that I owe

Mr. Page a very real debt of gratitude, for it was during a recent visit of his here, that he impressed on me the desirability of providing birds with a natural flight—in other words that they should have as extensive a flight as space would allow, and that this flight should be planted with trees and grasses, flowers and weeds suitable to their requirements. I feel certain that the local builder and nurseryman were more than pleased with Mr. Page's suggestions, but as my birds also have shown their appreciation of the natural shelter and extended space for exercise provided, by starting their breeding operations thus early in the year, I am convinced—quite apart from the delight of watching the Birds, as nearly as one can, under natural conditions—that the expenditure incurred in the carrying out of Mr. Page's suggestions has been money very well laid out indeed.

Perhaps at starting I should mention the contents of the Greenhouse Aviary which it will be remembered was figured in the April issue of *Bird Notes*, as it is in this Aviary that the majority of my more valuable Birds are kept, viz., pairs of—

Painted Finches.
Parrot Finches.
Pileated Finches.
Cuban Finches.
Olive Finches.
Banded Finches.
Ruficauda Finches.
Black-headed Gouldian Finches.
Cordon Bleus.
St. Helena Waxbills.
Green Singing-Finches.
Indigo Buntings.
Pintail Nonpareils, and
Various Mannikins.

Of these the following have already reared young birds, which are strong on the wing, and I hope over their troubles, but this cold wet weather makes one uneasy. The Painted Finches laid four eggs—result, four young birds. The Olive Finches laid two eggs, two young birds were hatched out, one of which died in the nest when about half grown. The Ruficaudas laid three eggs, result, three young birds.

To start with the birds in the order named above: I am very much indebted to Mr. Willford for his kindness in letting me have the pair of Painted Finches, which bred with him last year. I sent my aviary attendant, Mr. Wareham, over to Haven Street, for them on May 5th. The birds started nesting in the aviary on May 12th, and the young birds left the nest on June 26th. The Painted Finches insisted on making their nest in the side of a huge structure (fully two feet in length) which the Mannikins had built: consequently the latter took up another position in the aviary, where they made an equally large nest, in the side of which the St. Helena Waxbills have established themselves, while the Mannikins go in and out of the top section of their nest. These two pairs of birds agree perfectly, while the Painted Finches insisted in driving the Mannikins away. Perhaps they objected to their sombre plumage! The Painted Finches were the best of parents, and brooded the young birds most assiduously. I noticed that the old birds were particularly keen after mealworms, ant "eggs," and blow-fly pupæ, but the gentles (larvæ) they did not seem to care for. They were also very keen after Green Fly, of which there is a most bountiful supply this summer, and no doubt the rapid growth of their young was due to the constant feeding induced, I suppose, by the live insect food, which was renewed twice daily.

Next in order come the Olive Finches, and as I understand they have only once before been bred in this country, by that ardent aviculturist, Mr. R. Phillips, I will endeavour to give as full an account as lies in my power. To start with it will be of interest perhaps to mention how these birds came into my possession. I was on the look out for a Hen Cuban Finch to replace one which had died during the early Spring from egg binding, and seeing an advertisment of two hens and a cock Cuban for sale, I had them sent me on approval, but only to find on their arrival that they were birds unknown to me. A reference to that kindly helper of the aviculturist (Mr. Page) disclosed that the birds were Olive Finches, and I decided to purchase them. I parted with the odd hen. The pair I kept for myself were turned out of their cage on the 14th of May, and actually started to build the very next day. These birds selected a large Box tree in the flight for their nest, and when the nest was nearing completion, I put up a shelter over the tree. To my astonishment within a day or so the birds started a fresh nest, in another tree at the far end of the flight, and I shook hands with myself, as it was evident no harm had been done. The birds continued to go in and out of the new nest, and since either the hen or cock was not to be seen by day, I naturally concluded that they were incubating in the new nest. To my amazement, one morning when sitting in the flight, I heard the unmistakable sound of young birds being fed, proceeding from the *old* nest, and watching carefully, saw the old birds going in and out of it. On June 15th, one young bird emerged, but I found to my regret the second youngster was dead,—about half grown. The nest was constructed of dried grass, and lined internally with hair. The nest was a most flimsy structure, and certainly would not have supported the weight of more than two young birds. I noticed, as a curious thing, that the hen fed the cock during the nest building period, and that the cock did most of it. During the courting period it was a most charming sight to see the cock "showing-off" to the hen. He stood before her, opened his beak, and fluttered his wings with the most extraordinary rapidity for quite half a minute, or more, at a time. I can say truthfully that Olive Finches are far and away the most charming and interesting birds I have ever had the luck to keep, and they are certainly my favourites out of the whole flock. The Olives are especially fond of flies, and they rejoice to pick them out of any spider's web they can find. They also are continually chasing small flies in the flight, and are always at work on the trees searching for insect life. The last pair to mention are the Ruficaudas. They nested in the aviary in a Canary nest box. These birds are so well known that it seems like occupying valuable space to describe their nesting. They are extremely philosophical, and do not resent in the least being watched, and the tender way in which they fed and tended their brood was quite delightful. This species as well as the Olive Finches, and Painted Finches were keen on live insect food.

(To be continued).

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 140.

PSITTACIDAE.

In the Gambia there are only three species of Parrot, the Grey, the typical West African Parrot, not occurring quite as far north, though the limit of its range cannot be far away, as it appears to be quite common in Futa Jallon, the country behind French Guinea and Sierra Leone. The three Gambian Parrots are:

Palaeornis docilis. ROSE-RINGED PARRAKEET.

Range. West Africa (Senegambia to Gold Coast). Sudan. Equatorial Africa. Abyssinia. *(H.L.)*

Poecephalus senegalus. SENEGAL PARROT.

Range. Senegambia. *(H.L.)*

And another *Poecephalus*, which I take to be

P. fuscicollis, the BROWN-NECKED PARROT.

though the *Hand List* gives the range of this species as West Africa (Togoland to Gaboon), countries far to the south of the Gambia, in the Gulf of Benin.

The first of these, the Rose-ringed Parrakeet, is merely a somewhat smaller edition of the Ring-neck Parrakeet imported in such large numbers from the East, a green long-tailed bird, the male of which when adult has a pink collar encircling the neck behind and at the sides and a black one commencing with moustache-like streaks at the bill and joining the pink, but not reaching the nape. The female and young have no collar. The bill of the adult is waxy crimson; in the young it is grey, which gradually changes to crimson as age advances, though a dark tip persists until the bird is at least some years old. The iris is grey in the young, bright brown in the adult. Legs grey.

Like their Eastern relatives most of them are inveterate screamers in captivity, and have, in my opinion, very little to recommend them as pets, though I have known one or two, which had been taken young and remained tame and trustful and learnt to say a few words, but most of those I have had, have been terribly noisy and savage. Those which had been caught when adult were all absolutely untameable, while even my young birds became wild and unsatisfactory as they grew up. On the other hand when free, they are most attractive birds, which generally go about in flocks of from twenty to thirty, conspicuous when on the wing for their rapid whizzing flight, their gleaming green plumage and outspread tail, but most difficult to see when feeding on a leafy tree, though their presence is always made manifest by their constant shrill screaming. They are very common and breed throughout the Protectorate, the nesting season commencing about May, and lasting till September. The nest is in a hole in a tree and contains as a rule four white eggs. They feed on all kinds of bush-fruits, and in the season work great havoc in the ripening corn-fields, while later on, when the ground-nuts are pulled and left in the fields to dry, they live for a time almost entirely on these. In parenthesis I may remark that, besides the birds, every one, both black and white, and nearly every animal, from horses and dogs downwards, is in this country a groundnut-eater on a large scale, especially when they are fresh, when they are really excellent, and very different to the dried up things one buys as "monkey nuts" in England. Native names for this Parrakeet are Cha kelli, or Kelli kelli in Mandingo and Tchoy, Tchoy i kei or Kele in Joloff.

Number two, the SENEGAL PARROT is also very common and certainly one of the best known birds of the Gambia, where it is known as a "Dumdum," not from any resemblance to a softnosed bullet, but from its Joloff name, "Ndum ndum." In Mandingo their name is "Jobo." As a frontispiece to Vol. V. of *Bird Notes* we had a life-like plate of Miss Collier's "Dumdum," which is still alive and as tame and in a perfect condition as ever, though more than ten years old, as is also a bird I have, which must be nearly as old. My bird is still absolutely trustworthy with ladies, though it dislikes most men; it loves being fondled and has learnt to say one or two words in a funny little plaintive voice.

In the adult the whole head and face are blackish grey, the lower breast, belly and under tail-coverts bright yellow deepening to orange at the centre, the tail and flights are blackish brown washed with olive and the rest of the plumage, that is, the whole upper parts, the thighs and a shield-shaped breast-band between the grey throat and yellow belly, a bright grass green. The sexes are alike. The young at first have no yellow breast, the whole upper and lower parts being green, duller than that of the adult, and the head browner and washed with olive. As they grow the yellow soon appears, but the full adult brilliance does not seem to be reached till at least the second year. The iris in the old bird is a light hazel or yellowish brown, in the young black gradually changing through grey and then greyish yellow to the brown of the adult. The bill is blackish in the adult, and horn grey tinged with pink in the young. The legs are dark grey in the adult, dirty pink in the young. Length about 8½ inches. The Senegal Parrot is my ideal pet in the parrot line, the very antithesis of the Ring-neck; easily tamed, quiet, and intelligent. It makes no difference whether it is taken old or young, in three or four days it is practically tame, and in a week obviously delights in being scratched, and shows every sign of enjoying the attentions and presence of its owner. The one I have now, though an old bird, which fought and bit savagely when first brought to me, began to feed within twenty-four-hours and was safe to handle in three days; and nearly every bird of this kind, which I have kept or seen, has shown just the same natural tameness and adaptability to captivity. When wild, however, they are extremely wary birds, never feeding without one of their number stationed on an elevated position to keep a sharp look-out for dangerous intruders. They usually go about in flocks of about the same size as those of the Ringnecks, but unlike them are slow (though strong) flyers, progressing by sharp short strokes, the points of the wings almost meeting beneath the body at each stroke. In the open the brilliant yellow of the breast and bright green of the upper parts are very striking; but these two colours (as is also the case in the similarly marked Green Fruit-Pigeon), harmonise so well with the dead and living leaves, that in a tree these birds are among the most difficult to distinguish. They breed from about May to September, laying two eggs in a hole in a tree. Their call note is much more of a chatter and less of a scream than that of the Ringneck, while when tame they are as quiet as any Parrot ever is.

Our third species is a much larger and less common bird, chiefly conspicuous for its huge beak. As I have nothing to add to the full account of this Parrot which I wrote for a recent number of the *Avicultural Magazine,* I venture to repeat that article here.

This bird is an extraordinarily ugly looking creature on account of its huge powerful beak, and ungainly head, its heavy build and rather dull colouration, and except for its rarity possesses few attractions as a cage-bird, as I have found most of those I have had very difficult to keep alive for any length of time, and this is especially the case with young birds taken from the nest. Even when odd ones do survive, they rarely or never assume any semblance of tameness or get rid of the awful habit of screaming wildly when any one goes near them. However, this bird has always interested me owing to the peculiarity that the young are actually more brightly coloured than the adults, and because I am still doubtful as to what species it really belongs.

To be Continued.

A Unique Consignment of Indian Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

It is not perhaps generally known, but, for practically the whole of this year Mr. W. Frost has been in India collecting for our esteemed member Mr. E. J. Brook, and while we regret that the main object of the expedition has not been attained, viz., the successful landing of Sunbirds (these succumbed to cold *en route*) yet the energy of the collector culminated in the successful landing, on June 3rd, of some 700 living specimens, very many of which are new to English aviculture, and many others which are very rare on the English market when I add that the bulk of these are small soft-bills, the extent of the task and the result achieved will be in some measure realised. By Mr. Brook's kind invitation I recently had the opportunity of looking over this huge collection, and I must congratulate Mr. Brook on such a result to his enterprise, and Mr. Frost on the manner in which he has fulfilled his commission, and to express the hope that in the near future a large consignment of Sunbirds will adorn the Hoddam Castle Aviaries; as it is, the collection of birds there will be enriched by many species of rare Flycatchers, Minivets, Wagtails, Redstarts, Chats, Tits, Warblers, etc.

To review the birds is not an easy task, and but the merest glossary can be given in these notes.

MINIVETS: These must be given premier position, two species are represented in true pairs (unfortunately there are none for general distribution). Their gorgeous plumage and dainty form, quite apart from rarity, make them an acquisition indeed to any collection.

Diet: Insectile mixture, live insects, fruit, and access to milk sop.

SHORT-BILLED MINIVET *(Pericrocotus brevirostris)*: A lovely bird of dainty and graceful form, and gorgeous apparel. Above, rich glossy black; below, flaming scarlet. The female is grey above, and bright yellow beneath. Pen fails to describe these beautiful gems, which are known to Anglo-Indians as Cardinal Birds, and to natives as "Rajah Lal" (King Scarlet). Total length. $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tail 4.

THE SMALL MINIVET *(P. perigrinus)*. A slender and graceful bird, of exquisite plumage, but these specimens were not in full colour. The male is mostly grey above, with the rump and upper tail coverts scarlet; breast scarlet, remainder of under surface varying in hue from rich saffron-yellow to orange. Mr. Frost graphically described it as the hues of a sunset cloud. Total length 6 inches, tail 3.

FLYCATCHERS: Next, I must place the Flycatchers. These are a most interesting group of birds to aviculturists, they are fascinating under whatever conditions they are kept—cage, room, or aviary—and from the species already known to English aviculture, are not unduly difficult to keep, thriving on a diet of Insectile mixture, and live insects of sorts. This group, too, is of graceful form, with beautiful iridescent plumage. Nine species are represented, the first five of which are, I think, new to English aviculture.

BLUE-THROATED FLYCATCHER *(Cyornis rubeculoides)*. Breeds in the Himalayas—nest constructed of moss and lichens, and placed in the hole of a tree, bank or rock (Oates). The upper plumage is dark blue, with forehead and eye-streak of glistening blue; below ferruginous. Total length $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, tail $2\frac{1}{2}$.

The White-browed Blue Flycatcher (*C. superciliaris*). Another Himalayan species—uses the hole of a tree or wall as a nesting site. Dull blue above; with the exception of a broad breast band of dull blue, the whole of the lower plumage is white. Total length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tail 2.

Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher (*Siphia strophiata*). Above olive-brown, with black and white facial markings; oval patch of orange-chestnut, below the black throat; undersurface slaty, merging into white on the abdomen. Total length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tail $2\frac{3}{8}$.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *(S. parva)*. Rather plainly clad, nevertheless a dainty species. Above it is principally grey and brown, eye region and under parts below breast, white; the chin, throat, and breast chestnut. Total length 5 inches, tail 2. This species is also found in Central and South-Eastern Europe during the summer months.

Red-throated Flycatcher: Unfortunately I did not note this species.

The other four species are beautiful birds, but are known to visitors to London shows and have several times been referred to in *Bird Notes*, viz., Verditer *(Stoparola melanops)* Great-billed* *(C. magnirostris)*, Tickell's (*C. tickelli*), and Rufous-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara*).

REDSTARTS: A Redstart is an intensely interesting bird, what with its perpetually moving tail, and Robin-like demeanour, it soon endears itself to its owner and speedily becomes tame and fearless. They thrive on Insectile mixture, live insects and some species certainly take a little milk-sop, and peck at over-ripe fruit. I have kept the Plumbeous since 1907; it has done well in one of my aviaries out of doors all the year round, and is still living Four species are represented, all of which are, however, known to English aviculture.

The Plumbeous Redstart (*Rhyacophilus fuliginous*). A truly fascinating species, slaty-blue above, ashy-brown beneath, with chestnut tail, and upper and under tail-coverts of white. Total length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tail just over 2. A Himalayan species (not wholly)—the nest site is a shelf of rock, or a hollow in a bank by the side of a stream.

The White-capped Redstart *(Chimarrhornis leucocephala)*. A handsome Himalayan species of Chat-like demeanour, with plumage of chestnut-maroon, and black; cap (including crown and nape) pure white. Total length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tail $3\frac{1}{4}$. Nesting site, mostly a hole in a bank by the side of a stream.

The Blue-fronted Redstart *(Ruticilla frontalis)* The male is dull blue above, with forehead and supercilium bright, glistening blue; rump, upper tail-coverts, tail (except the two middle feathers), breast and entire under surface chestnut. Total length 6 inches, tail just over 2½.

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*See coloured plate in June issue of current volume.

The Indian Redstart *(R. rufiventris)*. This species much resembles the English Redstart in plumage, but is not so handsome, is darker, and lacks the white forehead. Total length 6 inches, tail full 2½.

The remaining species must be little more than a list, some of them will however be referred to later.

Wagtails: Black-headed Yellow, Blue-headed Yellow, Grey-headed Yellow, and two species new, I think to English aviculture. The Large Pied *(Motacilla maderaspatensis)*, a species larger, but very similar in plumage to the English species; and The Forrest Wagtail *(Limonidromus indicus)*.

Robins: These were represented by the Ruby-throat *(Calliope camtchatkensis)*, Red-spotted Blue-throat *(Cyanecula suecica)* and the Persian Nightingale *(Daulis golzi)*. All species of great interest, and all good songsters.

TITS: Two species were represented, viz., the Green-backed *(Parus monticola)*, this species I possessed for about three months in 1907. It was an amiable and interesting bird very tame and confiding; it was brought over by our esteemed member, Capt. Perreau. The Yellow-checked Tit *(Machlolopus xanthogenys)*, is a very handsome crested species, and may well be described as a minute Green Cardinal.

Diet : Insectile mixture, live insects *ad lib*, and shelled "Monkey" and Hazel nuts, also hemp and sunflower seeds, and fruit.

THRUSHES: These were fairly numerous, including beautiful, rare, and uncommon species, viz.:

Chestnut-bellied Blue Rock Thrush *(Petrophila rufiventris)*.
Blue-headed Blue Rock Thrush *(P. cinclorhyncha)*.
Himalayan Blue Whistling Thrush *(Myiophoneus temmincki)*.
Orange-headed Ground Thrush *(Geocichla citrina)*.
White-throated Ground Thrush *(G. cyanonota)*.

Babblers: These were represented by Scimitar-billed and Common Jungle *(Crateropus canorus)*. The smaller Babblers include such lovely species as the Yellow-eyed* *(Pyctorhis sinensis)*, Silver-eared Mesia* *(Mesia argentauris)*, Blue-winged Siva* *(Siva cyanoptera)*, etc.

Bulbuls: These include the ever popular Gold-fronted Green *(C. aurifrons)*, Blue-winged Green *(C hardwicki)*, Him. Black* *(Hypsipetes psaroides)*, the rare Brown-eared *(Heximus flavala)*, and the well known Curl-crested.

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*Introduced to English aviculture by Mr. E. W. Harper,

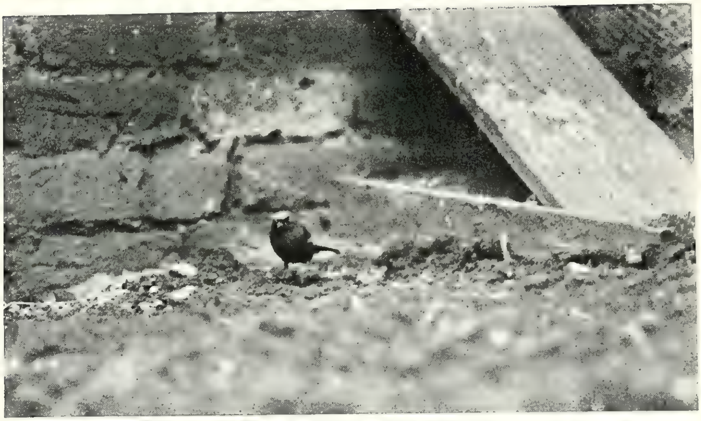

Photo by E. O. Page.

Plumbeous Redstart.
(*Rhyacophilus fuliginous*).

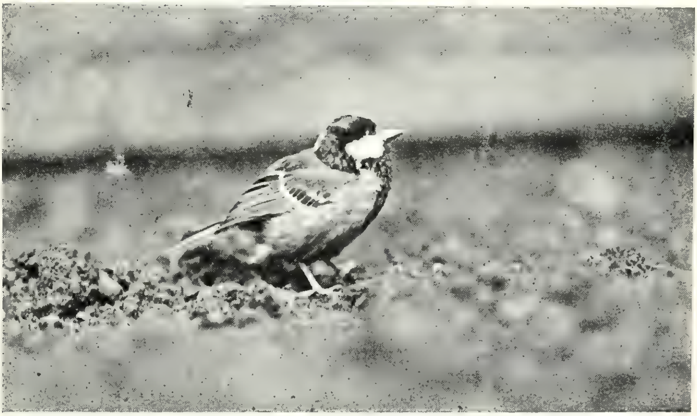

Photo by E. O. Page.

Green-backed Tit.
(*Parus monticola*).

DRONGOS: The Racket-tailed *(Dissemurus paradiseus)*, White-bellied (*D. cærulescens*), and Hair-crest (*Chibia hottentotta*), all excellent mimics and make tame and interesting pets (*vide next page*).

BARBETS: These include the Blue-cheeked, Coppersmith, and Small Ceylon.

BUNTINGS: Several very rare species are included here:—The Pine (*Emberiza leucocephala*), White-capped (*E. stewarti*), Black-crested *(Melophus melanicterus)* Eastern Meadow *(E. strachcyi)*, and Grey-headed *(E. fucata)*.

Among others, including many popular favourites, I may mention in passing:

Ashy-crowned and Black-bellied Finch-larks, Sikhim Siskin, Malabar Starling (semi-ablino), Shamas, Dyals, Spotted-wings, Mynahs, Black-necked Grackles, Wandering and Blue Tree Pies, Yellow-throated Sparrow, Cinnamon Tree Sparrow, Jerdon's and Black-throated Accentors, Tree and Rufous-throated Pipits, Maroon and Black-headed Orioles, Little Stints, Large Pratincole, Blood Pheasants, etc.

I have omitted to mention the Pied Bush-Chat *(Pratincola caprata)* and Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta castaneiventris*), both rare and delightful species.

I regret that fuller details are not possible in the space at my disposal, but hope to refer to some of them again at an early date. Insectile mixture, live food, ripe fruit, and milk sop would meet the needs of all the species named in these notes, except the few hard-bills, which would, of course require seed.

In conclusion, I certainly hope the many rare species noted herein, will enjoy a long life in the Hoddam Castle Aviaries, and that in the not distant future many of them may reproduce their kind.

To be continued.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh, Punjab).

BY CAPT. G. A. PERREAU, F.Z.S.

Continued from page 171.

NUTHATCHES: There is one fairly common Nuthatch (*Sitta cinnamomeiventris*), a resident between about 5,500 and 8,000 feet. It may come down a little lower in winter and go higher in summer. It is a nice looking bird. but I know little about it except that there are young about in early June. Upper plumage slaty-blue; a black band through the eye; lower plumage bright cinnamon chestnut in the male and pale chestnut in the female. The young are of duller plumage throughout. Length about 6 inches.

DRONGOS: We only get the Black Drongo (*Dicrurus ater*). It arrives in the spring to breed and goes down in the autumn, a very common but charming bird. They are not kept much by natives as their relations are infinitely superior. The Kesraj, the Hair-crested Drongo (*Chibia hottentotta*) and the Bhimraj, the Larger Racquet-tailed Drongo (*Dissemurus paradiseus*), especially the latter, are great favourites with the down-country native, as being good mimics and songsters. *D. ater* has some very nice notes and makes an excellent pet.

Two young were once brought in to me, and I passed them on to a bird-loving lady in the Station. They had been reared on shredded raw meat (probably goat). The native always dips the meat in water to do away with the stickiness. They were shut up at night, but enjoyed full liberty during the day. They lived for about three months, their world enjoying and by their world enjoyed, when they met their fate through trying to bathe in a tub meant for humans.

We generally have three or four nests in the compound every year. They seem with us invariably to build on the horizontal fork of a fir tree some way out from the trunk, fairly conspicuous when one knows where to look. They have little to fear from feathered foes, well earning their Anglo Indian name of King-crow. I have sometimes almost pitied an unfortunate Crow or Vulture, or Kite being harried from one Drongo's beat to another. It has been very much written about and with good reason. When present it is very much in evidence, taking up a commanding position on some bare branch or other prominent point from which it gives a fine display of the art of flying, swooping on its insect prey (generally taken on the ground), or apparently more often for the love of the art or mischief. Its pleasing metallic notes, energy, and boldness make it a welcome visitor.

The whole plumage is deep black glossed with steel blue. The eye is red. The young are brownish with feathers of the lower plumage tipped with white. Oates states that it is only the very old birds that are pure black. Till the season's young appear I have never seen any white marks upon them. Of birds that are found breeding both in the hills and the plains I fancy it is only the old ones that venture up. This is borne out in the case of the Paradise Flycatcher, a common summer visitor, which will be mentioned later in these notes. Writers from the plains always remark on the preponderance of red-tailed cocks. With this species the cocks do not attain their full plumage till after the fourth autumn moult. This can hardly be stated as a fact, but the deduction appears accurate. With us red-tailed birds (and then only birds in their fourth year) are very rare, I have never seen more than one in a season and some observers have not seen even that one, which apparently makes its headquarters in our compound, though without nesting. A pair of Magpie Robins (Dyals) that nest every year in our cook-house must be very old, as the cock has been in the habit of asking for tit-bits in the same place in the verandah for four or five years. He is always the first that I see every year.

To get back to our black friend, he is about 12.5 inches over all. His tail is deeply forked, and the outer feathers curl slightly upwards, length from 6 to 7 inches.

Creepers : We get a Tree-creeper, which is common in winter in Bakloh, and common in summer in Dalhousie, at from about 6,000 feet up. I cannot say I know much about it though I have found it in my nets more than once and it would be extremely easy to catch if one wanted it. It appears to be a bit larger and brighter than the English one, of the same type of colouration and of the same habits. I have not compared the bird in the hand with a description but believe it to be the Himalayan Tree-creeper (*Certhia himalayana*).

The Wall-creeper (*Tichodroma muraria*) is a common and very noticeable winter visitor in and below Bakloh. It is a familiar bird and does not resent being closely watched as it runs about the steep cliffs and rocks which it frequents. It has an uncreeper-like tail, soft and rounded; the wings are comparatively very large and are rounded. It has a very pretty butterfly-like, rather weak-looking flight; it can do long and powerful flights but unless pressed much, prefers to flutter a short distance to its next hunting ground. Its plumage is beautifully soft and copious and the soft colours, crimson on the wings and pearl grey practically on the rest of the plumage, combine most harmoniously. I see that I have used the word "soft" more often than I intended but do not think it is over-used. I think I could have caught it but funked attempting to meat it off. Length nearly 7 inches, tail 2.3, bill from gape 1.3, but it looks smaller.

The Goldcrest (*Regulus cristatus*) is a common winter visitor to the Station but requires no remark as it is identical with the European bird, so well known at home.

(To be Continued).

Nesting Notes.

By Rev. John M. Paterson.

Black-cheeked Lovebirds: In February—2 pairs of Blackcheeks laid 2 eggs in each nest—eggs filled but not hatched out. These birds (as already noted) were less than 12 months old.

Cockateels: April 18th and 19th Two hen Cockateels laid. On referring to my aviary record book, I find that both these birds were hatched on April 10th, 1910. So that we know that hen Cockateels mature in 12 months. The cock bird in one case was a veteran, and the eggs in his nest were fertile. In the other case the cock bird was hatched in 1910, and the eggs in his nest were infertile.

Breeding of Hybrid Doves: June 19th.—One egg hatched from a pair of Doves, the cock bird, a hybrid Turtle ♂ and Barbary ♀, and the hen a Barbary. These birds have had several eggs this year, and in every case one only of the two was filled. This last nest contains the first and only young one hatched so far.

Java Sparrows: June 12th—Two young Java Sparrows The interesting thing about their parentage is that, whilst the cock bird is a veteran White Java, the hen was a newly purchased and a newly imported Grey Java, who went to nest almost immediately.

Period of Incubation: I have found a curious note of the nesting of Bengelese in 1908. July 2nd, a solitary hen Bengelese began building in a small yew tree. I thought the bird was a cock until I saw her pairing with a cock Orange-cheek. I then secured a cock Bengelese, and the building proceeded till August 6th, when the first egg was laid—6 were laid altogether, the 6th on August 16th. The first egg was hatched, of which four were successfully reared. This shows that the first egg was hatched at least 31 days after it was laid, when I generally supposed that 10 to 14 days was the usual time. The weather was wet and cold.

Birds of The Year: I have only got young from Canaries, Cockateels, Cutthroats, Zebra Finches, and Javas. Orange-breasted Waxbills laid two clutches in a heated aviary in February, which came to nothing. Long-tailed Grassfinches have been on eggs for about a week. Black-headed Gouldians are building; also Cordon Bleus, and Jacarini Finches.

British Hybrids: A hen Greenfinch has nested and hatched out two young ones. The only cock birds in the aviary with her are a Hawfinch, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, and Reed Sparrow. Which of these has filled the eggs I cannot tell yet.

A Tragedy: I lost a beautiful Nightingale in a remarkable way. This bird was wonderfully tame, and I had turned it into my roomiest open aviary. One morning I found it dying with a very large earth-worm round its body stuck tight amongst its feathers. The bird had evidently attacked the worm at night time, and the worm in wriggling had got two turns round the bird's neck, and one extremity was glued under the left wing, and the other end of the worm after passing across the back, and under the right wing, from behind, was embedded under the feathers there. The bird died from exhaustion, and I nearly wept for sorrow, and felt inclined to give up the whole thing for some time, only the sight of the Gouldians and Cordons building as if life depended upon it, put fresh hope and encouragement into me.

Cross Mating: A Crimson Finch ♀ has paired with reen Avadavat ♂ what will the result be, if any?

Book Notices and Reviews.

CANARIES, HYBRIDS, AND BRITISH BIRDS IN CAGE AND AVIARY. Cassell and Co. In monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part XVI. Another good part with coloured frontispiece figuring three varieties of Crested Canaries, and many excellent figures in the text, including one of the Dartford Warbler. The chapter on "Hybrids between two British Birds" is completed, and there are others on "Breeding of Hybrids between two British Species"—"British Birds amenable to Captivity in Cage or Aviary (*Turdidæ*)" and "Warblers, Accentors, etc. (*Sylviidæ*)." A practical and interesting part.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: The season is now at its height and from the reports to hand some of our members are doing fairly well.

MALABAR STARLINGS (Mynah). Our esteemed member Miss M. E. Baker, has again this year a brood of this species hatched out and doing well—she has been successful in the past in rearing young of this fine and handsome species.

LINEOLATED PARRAKEETS: We cannot call to mind having seen any record re the nesting of this interesting species. It must be numbered among the species of Parrakeets which line the nest cavity. Miss Baker has a pair which laid two eggs in April and two more in May, unfortunately an accident to the hen (dislocated leg) has interfered with possible results. Before the eggs were laid both birds stripped bits of bark off the branches and carried them to the nest receptacle.

NESTING OF THE INDIAN WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops palpebrosa*). In my own aviary a pair of this lovely, and apparently fragile, but really robust species, have constructed a pocket-shaped nest, fragile looking but strong, and are incubating a clutch of three whitish-blue eggs. The nest is built almost at the tip of a branch of hawthorn (extending some 6 feet), which dips down and almost meets the rank grass (some 15 to 18 inches high) growing below it. The nest is constructed entirely of hay, lined interiorally with finer and a few feathers. The pocket is suspended by four ropes of twisted hay, and is about 2½ inches in diameter, by the same depth, the bird being entirely hidden when sitting—the site is well chosen, as though the past week has been more or less rainy, some of the showers being very heavy, and of considerable duration, the nest was quite dry when first discovered (evening of June 27), the foliage of the hawthorn though not dense, evidently throwing off the rain, as well as providing shade for the sitting bird. Of course my hopes are high, but eggs are but a step towards young birds on the wing. Three young birds were hatched on July 7th and were still living two days later.

PAINTED FINCHES (*Emblema picta*): Our esteemed member Mr. H. W. Mathias has young of this charming species on the wing—also Ruficauda and Olive Finches, with many others busily engaged in the duties of incubation, or feeding young.

BLACK-CHEEK LOVEBIRDS AND GREEN BUDGERIGAR HYBRIDS: Our esteemed member Mrs. Higginbotham has four young of the above cross hatched out and doing well. The male of a pair of Black-cheeks forsook his own mate and paired up with the Budgerigar. Seven eggs were duly laid, of which four duly hatched out, both parents shared the duties of incubation. The Black-cheek feeds the Budgerigar on the nest, but has not been seen to enter the nest receptacle since the hatching of the young. There are pairs of Rosella and Alexandrine Parrakeets in the aviary, but, neither dare go near the nest while the Black-cheek is in the vicinity. Mrs. Higginbotham also reports a young Yellow Budgerigar from Green parents.

AN ANNOYING BUT UNUSUAL EPISODE: Our esteemed member Capt. G. Rice, relates the following concerning one of his aviaries. This aviary contained a rather mixed lot of Parrakeets, which had paired up in an interesting way: Red-Rosella with Yellow-collar—Stanley with Barnard—there were several other Parrakeets, odd birds which had not paired at all. Inadvertently a small door in this aviary was left open and the whole of them were soon on the top of the house, and were flying from one chimney to another, probably looking for a nesting place, as they kept peering down the chimneys then one and another would disappear down a chimney and come up again—I hoped to capture them again when they were hungry—very shortly however, the cock Stanley appeared in one of the bedrooms, he had come down the chimney two stories he was captured and returned to the aviary. The others enjoyed their liberty and flew from house to various small woods near, apparently getting wilder and wilder, and but small hopes were entertained of their recapture. Next morning. however, the aviary attendant had managed to recapture one, and by evening all were captured excepting the Yellow-collar which had been paired up with the Red Rosella. Immediately on their being back again in the flight, the Red Rosella drove off the Stanley and paired up with the Barnard. Meanwhile the Yellow-collar had disappeared; after being missing a day and a night, it was heard calling down the billiard room chimney, and on a man being sent on to the roof and lowering a block of wood down the chimney by a string, down came the bird in a shower of soot—absolutely none the worse for 36 hours in the chimney. On putting the Yellow-collar back into the aviary, the Red Rosella at once commenced feeding her, and the Stanley went back to the Barnard—but the happenings had unsettled the Rosella and he divided his attention between the Yellow-collar and the Barnard's—the result was a pitched battle in which the Stanley got badly mauled, and the Stanley and Barnard's had to be removed to another aviary.

BLUE TANAGERS (*Tanagra episcopus*). In the aviaries of our esteemed member Dr. Scott, a young bird of this species has been duly hatched out and is being well looked after by its parents.

GREY-WINGED OUZELS (*Merula boulboul*). In the same aviaries a young bird of this species is on the wing and doing well. Mr. Sutcliffe has three, and Mr. H. D. Astley two young of this species on the wing.

PILEATED FINCHES, ETC. Three more of this interesting species have been hatched out in Dr. Scott's aviaries, and are being assiduously fed by their parents.* There are also Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, Cordon Bleus, Cuban Finches, Silverbills, Zebra Finches, and Bronze-wings, etc., which are either incubating or feeding young.

FOREIGN BIRDS IN CAGES. We recently had the opportunity of viewing Mr. and Mrs. Miller's fine series of birds, not so numerous as usual, but all in "spic and span" condition; the plumage of most of the specimens being simply perfect, not a feather out of place and, with a glossiness and iridescense that may well be called the bloom of health. Their methods of treatment are perfect cleanliness, wholesome food, close observation of each individual bird—details as to method of feeding the various species will be found in *B.N.*, Vol. I., N.S., page 328.

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* One young bird fending for itself July 5th.

All the birds were very tame, and responded to the care and attention bestowed upon them, not merely with their exquisite condition and health, but with their fearless, confiding, and responsive demeanour. Among others we noted the following:

White-eared Conure, acquired April, 1904.
Nonpareil Bunting, acquired June, 1904.
Yellow-winged Sugarbird, acquired June, 1904.
Gold-fronted Green Bulbul, acquired October, 1906.
Blue-bonnet Parrakeet, acquired February, 1907.
Many-coloured Parrakeets, acquired April, 1907.
Sydney Waxbill, acquired June, 1907.
Violet Parrot, acquired August, 1907.
Hawk-headed Caique, acquired August, 1907.
Lavender-backed Finch, acquired September, 1907.
Hooded Siskin, acquired May, 1908.
Guiana Lovebirds, acquired July, 1908.
Rainbow Bunting, acquired April, 1909.
Verditer Flycatcher, acquired August, 1909.

The Nonpareil Bunting, considering its seven years of cage life was a marvellous colour, containing more red in its plumage than is to be found in most aviary specimens. We also noted, but have no dates of acquisition, a well coloured Virginian Cardinal (fine songster), a delightfully tame Shama, tame Ruby-throat, and a very uncommon Yellow-shouldered or Ashy-fronted Amazon (*C. ocheroptera*), the iridescense of the lovely plumage of this bird equalling that of many Tanagers. It gave us much interest and pleasure to observe so fine a series of birds, not only in robust health, but tame, confiding, and evidently contented and happy in their roomy, cleanly, and well furnished homes (cages).

Club Badges. It had been felt for some time that a club badge was a necessity, so as to enable members to recognise each other at shows and other meetings, and we hope they will be largely taken up. We have had a number made in solid silver, picked out in blue and white enamel, which look really well, and have met with general approval. These are obtainable from the Hon. Editor at 3s. 6d. each (see "Notices to Members" in Inset).

GOLD-FRONTED GREEN BULBULS (*C. aurifrons*). Our esteemed member, Dr. M. Amsler, has a pair of this popular species busily engaged incubating a clutch of two eggs, which we certainly hope will be duly hatched and the young reared to maturity.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*). Our esteemed member, Mr. H. D. Astley, kindly sends the following note concerning this species, which I think have not previously been reared in captivity—if any member knows of such a record will they kindly inform me at once.

> "I have a young bird of this species. I believe they have not
> "been bred before in England. There were two young, but
> "one died this one is still in the nest but feathering well.
> "The old birds, most foolishly made no proper nest, but the hen
> "laid four or five eggs in a canary nest-box with perforated
> "zinc base, and all the eggs but two were broken, so I put
> "in part of a blackbird's nest, which she took to all right. The
> "male bird assisted in the duties of incubation and brooding the
> "young. The eggs were about the size of a Hawfinch's pale
> "blue with umber spots, and a thick belt of the same colour at
> "the stouter end. Very pretty eggs. The male bird is most
> "lovely, with his black and white plumage and the brilliant
> "carmine running down the centre of the breast he has a very
> "musical song. They are confiding, quiet, and inoffensive."

If the young bird is fully reared Mr. Astley will be entitled to the club medal on sending in a detailed account of his success.

ERRATUM: Page 180, line 12 from bottom—"*Epimarchus meyeri*" should read *Parotia lawesi*.

Page 180, line 4 from bottom—"*Lophorihna*" should read *Lophorhina*.

Page 182, line 1 "*D. albertisi*" should read *D. cervinicauda*.

Page 182, line 21 "*Barnadius*" should read *Barnardius*.

DIUCA FINCHES: Our esteemed member, Miss R. Alderson, informs us, that she bred this species in 1901, and though the young did not reach maturity it was fending for itself for several weeks before its decease. We also find it is on the London Zoo list as having been bred there.

The Aviaries at the L.M. Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College: We have to acknowledge the following gift in addition to those already announced:

Red-whiskered Bulbul, by Miss A. Bruce.

We should be glad if successful breeders would spare a few young birds of such species as Red-rump, Rosella, or Ring-necked Parrakeets, Black-cheeked Lovebirds, Doves, Quail, etc., for these aviaries.

Breeding of Tanagers: Just on going to press (July 6th), we learn that a young Blue Tanager (*T. episcopus*) has left the nest, with apparently excellent prospects of being reared to maturity. We congratulate Dr. Scott on his success—once more the garden or wilderness flight is vindicated. In the same aviary two young Scarlet Tanagers have been hatched out, and we hope full success will be attained with this species also. Neither species have as yet been bred in captivity, though several aviculturists have come very near success.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. *must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.*

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret

Rosella Parrakeet (W. Shore Baily), cock (not as stated hen). This bird's remains were very much emaciated, but showed no gross lesions. Probably death was due to a septicaemia, which was not true bird fever.

Green Avadavat (Mr. J. Flannery, Nenagh). Death was due to a septicaemia which was not true bird-fever. This septicaemia is caused by the insanitary conditions under which such birds are imported.

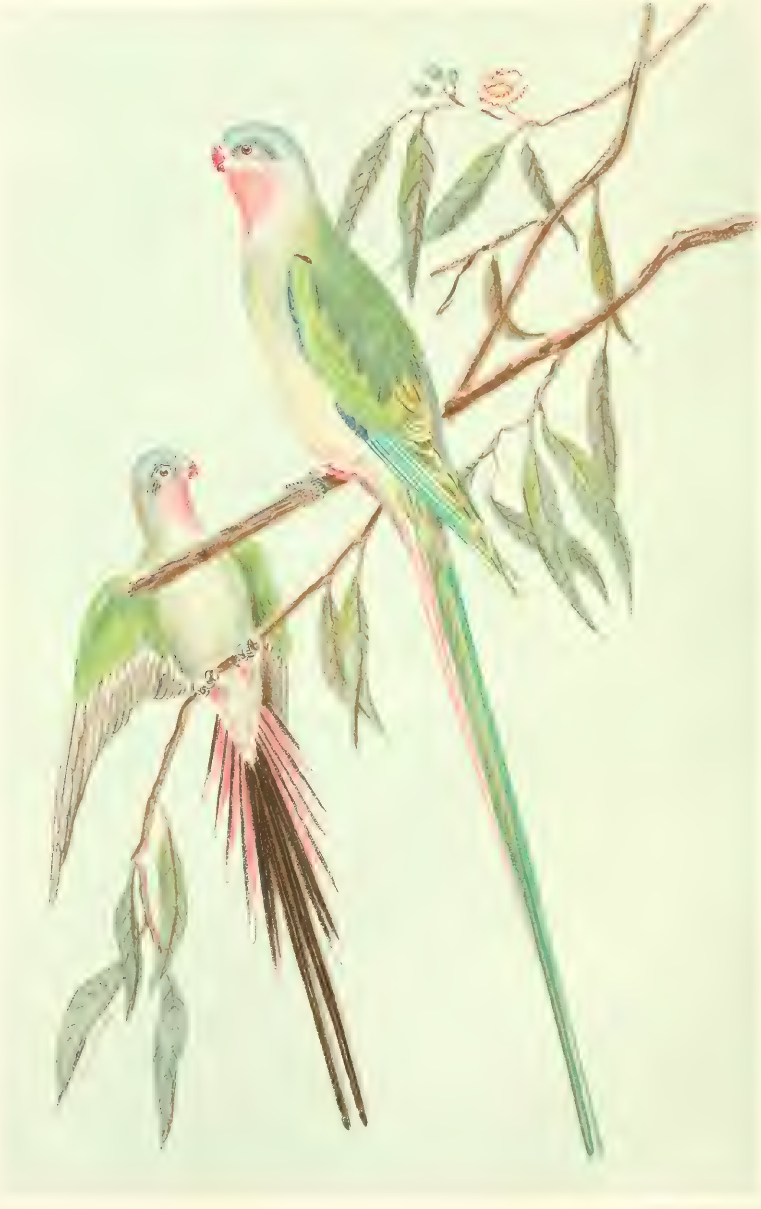
IMPORTANT: Is a purchaser by post bound to keep birds which are not up to his expectations on arrival? Can a purchaser compel a seller to refund the price of birds which are found, on arrival, to be dead, dying, or in a bad state of health? These questions may no doubt, be answered by some member of the Foreign Bird Club who has had legal training and experience.

COCK SCALY BREASTED LORIKEET (Mrs. Williams). (?) 49, Okehampton Road, Exeter. The remains were very plump, but death was due to pneumonia.

HEN ZEBRA FINCH (Dr. P. Gosse, Hants), Death was due to enteritis and pneumonia.

YELLOW BUDGERIGAR (H. W. Mathias, Stubbington). Probably death was due to convulsions, judging from the post mortem conditions.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



H D Astley, del

Huth, lith. et imp

QUEEN ALEXANDRA PARRAKEET.

Spathopterus Alexandræ

From life by H. D. Astley, M. A. etc

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Queen Alexandra Parrakeet.

(*Spathopterus* (*or Polytelis*) *Alexandræ*).

BY HUBERT D. ASTLEY, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

No more gorgeous colourings are to be found amongst birds than in the Parrot tribe, but the Queen Alexandra Parrakeet stands alone for the marvellous combination of delicate tints. The bird is like an opal, like a sunset where colours are all subdued yet brilliant. Neither is it because of colouring only that this parrot pleases the eye so strongly, the form is exceedingly graceful, and the flight astonishingly beautiful. Gould, in his great work "Birds of Australia" (Supplement) wrote:

> "I feel assured that the discovery of an additional species "of the lovely genus *Polytelis* will be hailed with pleasure by "all ornithologists, and that they will readily assent to its bearing "the specific name of *Alexandræ*. The *Polytelis alexandræ* is in "every respect a typical example of its genus, having the delicate "bill and lengthened tail characteristic of the other species of that "form. About the same size as *P. barrabandi* it differs from "that species in having the crown blue and the lower part of the "cheeks rose-pink instead of yellow."

I have before now protested against the straw-splitting nomenclature by which this Parrakeet has been separated from its true family and been given the name of *Spathopterus*, and this because of the spatulated tips to the wing feathers—the third primaries—in the male bird.

If the Green Leek (Barraband's) and the Rock Pebbler (*Polytelis melanura*) are to be named *Polytelis* as they have been, then certainly the Queen Alexandra is their first cousin.

The whole style and shape, the colouring of the under part of the tail, all show that this bird is of the same family, yet it has been separated because of a small extra ornamentation to be found in the male bird only.

That ornamentation is not, I would submit, of sufficient importance to divide the bird from its family, or to alter the title given it by Gould. First come, first served! It is true that the great naturalist neither mentions the spatulated feathers, nor depicts them in the coloured plate, but even then I feel convinced he would have named the bird as he did. It may be that he only procured the skin of a female, but it is curious that in the coloured plate of this Parrakeet in the *Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. V., Sept., 1899, the artist has also apparently failed to observe this distinctive mark of the male, and the same may be said of the writer of the accompanying article. I know of no published illustration where it is to be found, except in Mr. Seth-Smith's book "Parrakeets," where an uncoloured woodcut, of the feather only, appears, p. 126, with the tips of six of the primaries, to show the elongation and spatulation of the third.

Therefore I have endeavoured to portray a pair of these birds, and I have no doubt the picture is by no means perfect,—in which these feathers in the wing of the male bird can be distinctly seen.

When they are acquired I am not sure, but I have a young male in fairly full colour who carries them only in embryo as it were, so that they may not put in appearance until the second year, or even the third. Naturally tame and confiding, these Parrakeets make most charming pets, except for their voices, which are shrill and ear-piercing, yet at times the male gives forth some sweet and curious notes, clucking and whistling in a rather fascinating manner. A tame male which I keep by himself in the house is without any fear and is wonderfully intelligent and quick.

His great delight is to be let out of his cage in a room of large proportions, when he flies round and round with great swiftness, the pink throat and under tail and brilliant grass green of the wings making a very beautiful combination of colours. But I have seen one flying out of doors, for my oldest hen bird which I acquired some 7 or 8 years ago, and which I still have, escaped and shot off like an arrow from a bow, darting in fine circles at a considerable height above the tallest trees, when her extremely pointed wings and tail were conspicuous. The flight was wonderful. It was also an anxious one for me, but I got her back towards evening by the calling of her mate, and by her natural lack of fear.

The caged male already mentioned, will play with me and delights in swooping down on to my shoulders, where he tells me many secrets, although not exactly whispered ones, by placing his bill almost in one of my ears, and whistling "JoeyJoey" for a quarter of an hour at a time. A silver box and a large silver flower bowl are great attractions towards which he never fails to be drawn, for in them he sees his reflection. Tightening all the body feathers, and stretching up his head, he jumps forward with scintillating eyes, and bobs up and down; and then placing his bill close to that of the bird he supposes he sees, he moves the mandibles quickly, uttering noises which sound uncommonly like human kisses!

If I attempt to push him away, he goes for me, running excitedly about and opening and closing his wings, screaming indignantly.

If he does not wish to return to his cage and he sees that I am of the contrary opinion, he flies off saying very decidedly by the tones of his voice "Oh, *do* leave me alone, how you do bother!"

In an outdoor aviary I have not found these Parrakeets to be delicate, indeed I may say they are fairly hardy. I have kept a pair for some years in an aviary with no artificial heat whatever, but only a cosy roosting-house, the door of which, however, was always open in the worst of weather, not only by day but also at night.

The Alexandras have a way of sitting looking as if they were decidedly poorly, and will then suddenly rouse themselves and become alert; but it is a tiresome habit, because a bird that does this may cry "wolf" once too often.

They have not yet bred in Europe, indeed their numbers are decidedly limited, but mine have nested for several years in succession, and even three times in one season.

Mr. Fasey's birds have also got as far as eggs, I believe, and he raised a hybrid between an "Alexandra" and a Rock Pebbler, if I mistake not.

[N.B.—Birds of different families do interbreed sometimes ! !].

I believe that if three or four pairs of these birds could be kept in an aviary to themselves, they would be more likely to breed successfully, as they naturally nest in little colonies.

Mr. Seth-Smith in "Parrakeets" writes that the Alexandra Parrakeet was met during the Horn Expedition to Central Australia in 1894, and Mr. Keartland who accompanied the expedition, writes as follows regarding the species :—

> "The advance party had halted for lunch, and on my
> "arrival Professor Tate said he had seen a strange-looking Parrot
> "in the oaks near at hand. I started off in the direction indicated,
> "and after going about two yards saw what at first appeared to
> "be a Cockatoo-Parrot flying towards me. Having carefully noted
> "the branch on which it was perched, I hurried forward, but not-
> "withstanding the sparse foliage of the tree, I had to look care-
> "fully for some minutes before I found it. Immediately the shot
> "was fired, a number of these beautiful birds flew out of the
> "trees in all directions, in twos, and threes, and fours . . .
> "I have since heard that one of their breeding places has been
> "discovered on the Hale river."

Writing to Mr. North under date of 28th April, 1895, Mr. Keartland remarks [Mr. Seth-Smith tells us] :—

> "Mr. Winnick, one of the members of our late expedition
> "has sent me a pair of live *Polytelis alexandrae*. I never saw
> "Parrots so tame and gentle. They will fly off the top perch in
> "the aviary on to my arm and eat seed out of my hand, and allow
> "me to stroke them."

These Parrakeets seem, from accounts given, to be remarkably fearless and tame, even in a wild state. When I go into the aviary where mine are, they are fond of flying down to the ground and of running quickly about one's feet, perching on the pail used for refuse, and often climbing down into it to hunt for food which they seem to begrudge being carted away. They eat all kinds of seed, as well as apple and grapes, etc., and simply delight in plenty of chick-weed and groundsel when in season.

Individual males can apparently be spiteful and quarrelsome, but as a rule they agree together. They are wonderful birds to whose beauty no painting can really do justice, and one never tires of admiring them. Every time one sees them their great beauty comes to one as freshly as when one first saw them. I have two males and five females. Is one ever content? I should like forty!

P.S.—Since writing these notes the birds have nested. The two males have been repeatedly seen to mate with more than one female, and all five females have either laid eggs or have been anxious to nest all the summer. One of these has had two clutches but she broke them by jumping down on them in a deep nesting box. I now have more than one young Queen Alexandra's hatched out, the first being born about July 25th.

Nesting of Hoopoes.

By Mark Aronstein.

I think the fact of the nesting of my pair of this beautiful and interesting species will be of general interest, more especially so, as I believe this to be the first time that they have done so in captivity.

The birds are a pair I procured from De Von and Co. in May, 1910, they were somewhat wild at first but, after about three weeks they settled down and developed into fine specimens of their kind.

About the middle of May last, I noticed the hen looking—as I thought—for a nesting site, and I immediately supplied her with a box and building material, which she took to at once and prepared it for occupation. The first egg she laid on the ground, the remainder of the clutch were duly deposited in the box. Incubation went forward very satisfactorily, and the eggs proved to be fertile, they are due to hatch on July 8th. I have every hope of being successful in rearing them, as the pair are exceptionally tame. The cock is most attentive to his mate and is constantly feeding her. The eggs are rather long in shape and of a pale blue colour. She has sat very close from the commencement. I found that if I trespassed anywhere near the nest she made a peculiar spitting noise, somewhat like the Tits.

On July 8th, five chicks were duly hatched out, and at time of writing (July 11), are going on splendidly. I had a look at them to-day, and one would hardly believe the development made in a few days. When first hatched they were almost white, now they are a dirty grey and about three times the size they were when first I looked at them. I notice their beaks at present are no different from those of young thrushes and blackbirds.

Diet: I feed as follows—D. D. and Co.'s best Nightingale Food. This is mixed with raw eggs and silk-worm cocoons and the whole fried in fresh butter—the birds partake of this freely and thrive on it, I should mention I place it in a box, and cover with bran to the depth of four or five inches. I also supply in another box beetles, gentles, and mealworms, which I also cover with bran, as I find this method gives them exercise in picking out their food and helps to keep them in condition. That the foregoing treatment is about right is amply demonstrated by the fact that, after a year in captivity they were sufficiently fit and vigorous to attempt to reproduce their kind, with at any rate partial success, and with every indication at the present that the young will be fully reared.*

The Breeding of Ruficaudas, Painted and Olive Finches, etc.

By Hayward W. Mathias.

Continued from page 198.

As to the other occupants of this aviary, the Parrot Finches still present the puzzle they have been to me for the past three seasons. I have consulted Mr. W. R. Temple who has kept and succeeded with the species, and he supposes they must be two hens, and yet the bird I *know* to be a hen, *for she has laid,* behaves in all ways as a cock. They have now taken a fancy to a coco-nut husk, but unless an actual nest is made and a normal number of eggs laid, I shall consider I have two hens and accept Mr. Temple's kind offer of two cocks, and see what that brings forth.

The Pileated Finches have not been long in my possession. I am disposed to think these birds have lined a coconut husk, and I am hoping for good results.

The Cuban Finches have made no less than three nests. The first was a large one in a Cupressus tree in the flight. They then proceeded to pull this to pieces and built on top of a deserted nest in the inner compartment. Not content with these pranks, they proceeded once again to pull this nest about, and they have now taken up their quarters in a medium size travelling cage. Since the birds are continually going in and out of this nest, I rather hope there may be a brood in it, but as I never under any circumstances disturb the nests, I do not know what the actual condition of affairs may be. The Black-headed Gouldians do nothing but look lovely. They are sluggish and uninteresting birds in an aviary, but I live in hopes that they will nest. They play about a coco-nut husk but stop at that, worse luck! The Cordon Bleus and St. Helena Waxbills are making attempts at nests, but nothing more at present. At the far end of the flight I have just discovered, in a gooseberry bush a large straggling nest. I have kept a close watch on it, but have not seen any bird going in and out, but, I am inclined to think it *may* be the Indigo Buntings, for I have noticed the hen bird to be humped up the last few days, and yesterday she certainly crept out from the corner where the nest is. If it is not the Indigo Buntings I cannot at all say whose the nest is, as it is certainly not the Nonpareils, and all the others are accounted for, so I am looking forward to an agreeable surprise one of these days, for the keeper of Foreigners always lives in hopes, and he has indeed need to, for disappointments are numerous, and pleasant surprises painfully rare.

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* Just on going to press we learn all the young are fully reared, further details in next issue.

The Banded Finches have made a nest in the flight, but so far have not laid.

Perhaps the bill of fare for my Finches may not come amiss to those of our members who are new to foreign bird keeping. I have already described the *Live* insects I give them. The seeds are as follows: Indian, Red and White Millet, Millet in the ear and heavy Spanish Canary seed. I also put a small supply of Paddy Rice for the special benefit of the Nonpareils, but this does not come amiss to the Gouldians and Parrot Finches. I am a strong believer also in variety in insectile mixtures, and give my birds a choice of three good mixtures, for I am firmly of the opinion that a varied diet goes a long way towards success. I also put down mixed—in the mortar and cuttle fish and oyster shell box—an assortment of wild seeds, which I find the birds pick over eagerly.

My second aviary perhaps hardly merits description. It contains commoner varieties: the best birds being perhaps Diamond Sparrows, Diamond Doves, and Carmine Finches. These latter are I believe at nest in the aviary, and I to-day discovered on the ground in the outside flight a very charming nest which probably belongs to a pair of Waxbills. The Diamond Doves are sitting, and are due to hatch out very shortly.

If I have not already run away with too much valuable space, perhaps room will be found for a few notes on my Black-cheeks. These at any rate are Birds you can do just as you like with,—provided of course you don't mind getting a sharp nip from their powerful beaks. I have to deplore the death from heat apoplexy of one of my old birds, —a very serious loss it was, and by fighting I lost one of the young pair I had put up for the purpose of solving the question as to the age at which English-bred birds would mate. I opened up the nests to-day (June 26th) with the following results. One old pair which had 7 eggs last time I looked, now has young, how many I know not. The bird, whose mate—I believe the cock—died, had no less than 9 eggs (possibly the result of two clutches). I saw this morning 3 young birds just hatched and I shall await with some curiosity the result of my next inspection. I am hopeful this hen will rear her brood unaided. As to the survivor of my pair of young. These birds were hatched in January, and eggs were laid during the first week in May, so it may be taken for granted that these young birds at any rate lay at about the age of four months. The cock is the survivor of this pair, and the two eggs in the nest, although they shewed signs of having been fertilised, will not hatch. I feed the Black-cheeks almost entirely on white oats, white sunflower, and millet sprays, but I occasionally give them for a treat some of the Finches seed. I have so far to record want of success with my pair of Stanley Parrakeets, which I have now had for three years. The pair have an aviary and flight entirely to themselves. I notice of late the cock has been feeding the hen, and generally making much of her. Once more I live in hopes.

The Yellow Budgerigars have behaved themselves very creditably for a set of newly wedded birds, for from the first round I have 15 youngsters on the wing, while each pair is again on eggs. The 25 birds (old and young) look charming in the flight, but they are already almost too numerous and I suppose I must make up my mind to get rid of some of them before the next round hatches, or I shall be overdone with them. The food the Budgerigars get is, to a great extent, the leavings from the other aviaries, carefully sifted first, of course, and supplemented with a liberal supply of white oats, to which they are very partial. It has given me, very great pleasure to jot down these notes on my birds, and I hope they may be of interest, and possibly of some value to those of our members who are taking up the fascinating pursuit of aviculture.

July 15th. By way of bringing my notes on breeding operations up to date, our worthy Editor permits me to add these words by way of post script to what I have already written. First a word of warning about young Painted Finches. The old birds feed well until they decide to set up housekeeping again, when they cease to feed their young,—as a consequence the smallest of my brood of four died apparently from neglect. At any rate its crop was quite empty when I found the dead body in the flight. It may be of interest to note, that the Olive Finches are again at nest, and have, I believe young birds. This is quick work, as the previous youngster only left the nest on June 15th. The Painted Finches, whose young flew on June 26th, are busily engaged in nest building. This time they have taken up their quarters in the outside flight, and are making a very large structure partly in a dwarf fir tree, and the rest worked by means of a tunnel into the coarse herbage which springs from the bank running round a part of the flight. The Diamond Doves have two young and are again engaged in incubation. Of the other birds previously mentioned, the Cordon Bleus are sitting, and the Pileated Finches have eggs. The Parrot Finch problem is no nearer solution, and I now have four birds (two in each aviary), but neither " pair " show any desire to go to nest. To successfully sex Parrot Finches presents a problem which I must admit myself quite unable to solve. I have to-day again examined the Black-cheeks, and am relieved to find that both lots of young are nearly fully feathered.

I bring these further notes to a conclusion by mentioning an insecticide I have used with excellent results in washing out cages, and for the sides and floors of the houses. It is called " Little's Phenyle," and is manufactured by Messrs. Morris, Little, and Co., Doncaster. In addition to its being an efficacious insecticide, it is also a good deodoriser, and disinfectant. I originally employed the preparation in our Pekingese kennels, and found it so useful there, that I have tried it, with the results stated, for my aviaries also. H.W.M.

The Nesting of the Indian White-eye.

(*Zosterops palpebrosa*).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

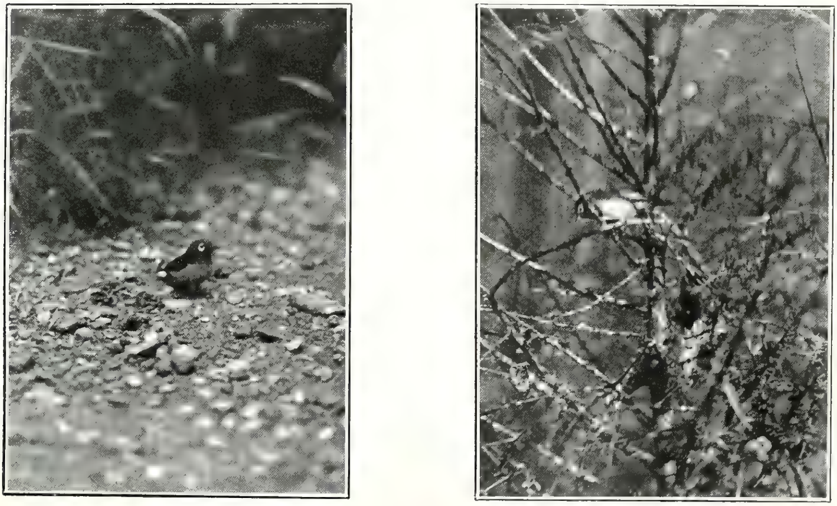
I may be wrong, but I think my pair of this charming species were the only living specimens in this country at the time of their arrival, though in the past they may have been brought over in small quantities. But it is the African species that is best known to English aviculturists, and so far as I can ascertain the present is the first time *Z. palpebrosa* has been bred in captivity.

In March of this year our esteemed member, Lieut. Kennedy was visiting this country, and my friend and fellow member, Capt. Perreau, took this opportunity of sending me a present of some rare Indian species—owing to weather conditions two White-eyes were the sole survivors—in parenthesis I may remark that Lieut. Kennedy kindly presented me with three Grey-headed Ouzels (*Merula castanea*), and I also acquired a pair of Streaked Laughing Thrushes (*Trochalopterum lineatum*), and save for the loss of the certain female of *M. castanea*, all are doing well.

They arrived just before Easter, and were at once turned into my very recently completed outdoor aviary (see plate and plan), where they at once made themselves at home, the White-eyes especially delighting me by their both wren- and tit-like habits and demeanour, being smaller and more slender than the African species, and very fragile in appearance—however, they certainly are not fragile, quite the reverse, and no birds in the aviary have borne with more equanimity the cold spells they have had to contend with on and off since arrival.

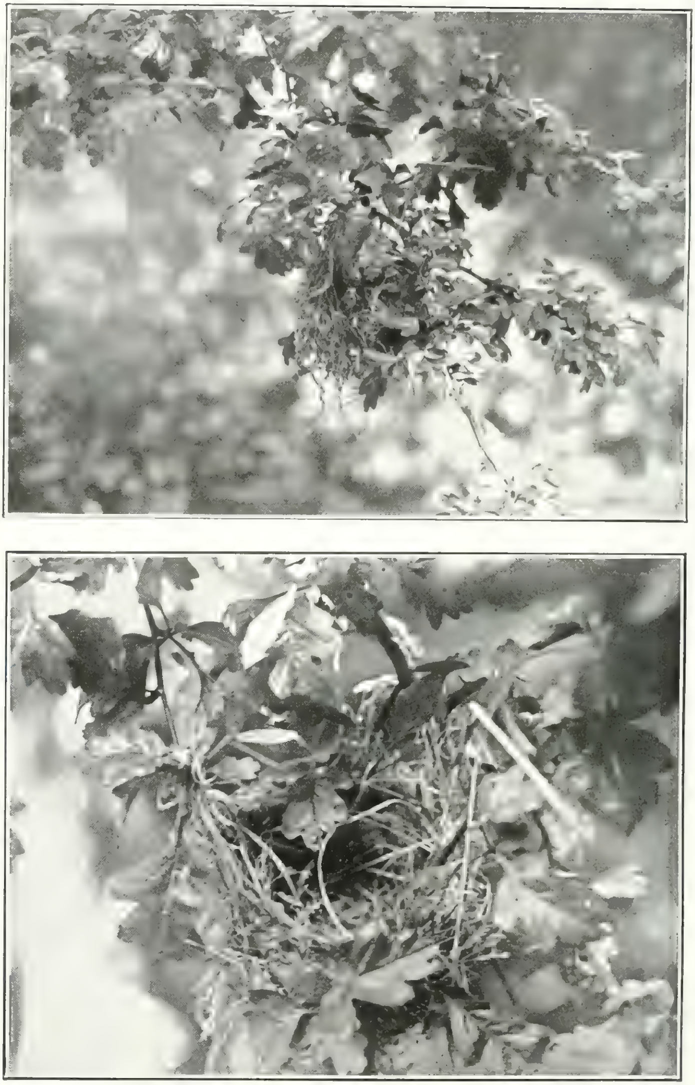
As regards diet nothing seems to come amiss to them—to meet the needs of a mixed series, seeds, milk sop, live insects, insectile mixture and ripe fruit are supplied. The White-eyes take a little of all, swallowing millet seed whole, but the main diet is milk sop, fruit, and live insects, from sunrise to sunset—except for very brief intervals of rest, they are on the forage for live food, both in the long grass and running creeper-like about the branches of the trees in their enclosure, or clinging tit-like to the slenderest twig in their eager search for prey.

Young Indian White-eyes—14 days old—hiding in midst of thicket of Hazel.



Photos by E. O. Page.

Indian White-eyes—left ♂, right ♀. Waiting for mealworms for hungry brood.



Photos by E. O. Page.

Nest of Indian White-eye (*Z. palpebrosa*).

The upper figure shows nest in normal position; in the lower figure the branch was pegged down, so as to show interior of nest.

Not till they had been with me for some weeks did they give indications of being a true pair. Then I caught them carrying bents into a large elder tree, but could trace no signs of the beginning of a nest, I only got occasional glimpses of them, and sometimes missed them for days. On the evening of June 27th I noticed one of them fly from the tip of a hawthorn branch, and a dangling piece of hay caused me to investigate, and I then found a nest which contained a clutch of eggs (pale bluish-white). The birds, for both shared the duties of incubation, sat very closely and did not leave their eggs unless one approached within a foot of their domicile, but the bird returned at once on the "objectionable" person's withdrawal.

The nest was somewhat like its builders, apparently fragile but really strong, and when the young had flown, it was as clean and as perfect as the day when I first discovered it, save that the edges had been a little trodden down by the parent birds, while feeding their young. I hope the photos taken (during strong wind), will be sufficiently clear to indicate the character and construction of the nest—a suspended pocket, barely two and a half inches in diameter by two inches deep, neatly constructed of hay, lined internally with fine hay and a few feathers.

A nest was constructed in the aviary of our esteemed member Capt. G. A. Perreau, at Bakloh, entirely of teazed string (vide *Bird Notes* Vol. I., N.S., p. 179), a clutch of three eggs was laid, but the young were not reared (vide p. 117, current vol.)—incubation (India) lasted ten days (see also Capt. Perreau's notes on this species in *B.N.*, Vol. VIII., p. 218 and 282).

I regret that my data are somewhat modified by the fact that the birds had commenced to incubate, but I think it may be safely assumed that they had but just begun their incubatory duties when the nest was discovered

Nest containing three eggs discovered on the evening of June 27th.

Three chicks hatched early morning of July 7th.

Three fully fledged birds left nest evening of July 17th.

Young birds fending for themselves August 1st.

It would thus appear that the incubation period for this country is ten to eleven days, and that the young leave the nest when eleven days old, and are competent to fend for themselves when about twenty-six days old.

I had a look at the fledgelings twice daily, and even with this regularity there was a palpable increase in size on each occasion. The newly hatched fledgelings were pinkish flesh colour, quite naked, without a trace of hair or down, and very minute. For the first four days they were fed entirely on flies, midges, blight, moths, and the like, which the parent birds captured for them in the aviary, and for which they were on the forage from sunrise to sunset, on the fifth day they commenced to feed with small mealworms; about every two hours I went into the aviary and gave each bird three, which were first killed and then taken to their babies. On the morning of the tenth day I observed them for the first time taking fruit (banana and orange) to their chicks, but they still fed with as much live food as they could capture or I cared to supply. The parent birds carried the fœces of the young several times round the aviary dropping it only when their movements were obscured by the foliage.

On the evening of July 17 (7 p.m.) I went across to the nest to have my look and see how matters were progressing, when to my horror I found the nest empty, yet at 6-30 I had seen the three gaping bills stretched above the top of the nest "yelling blue-murder for grub." I searched the long grass and the whole aviary but could not find a trace of, nor hear them, and it was a very anxious aviculturist who locked up the aviary for the night and also wended his way thitherward at 6 a.m. on the following morning. Anxiety was soon stilled for three fine and apparently robust young Indian Zosterops were disporting themselves for the first time in an English aviary.

In plumage the young resemble their parents, but are a little greyer, and lack the white eye-ring—in other words the juveniles do not wear spectacles.* I have omitted to say their eyes were open on the morning of the fifth day.

Adults : I have not handled the birds yet and have failed to discover any dis-similarity in plumage between the sexes from my aviary observations, yet the one which I take to be the male is

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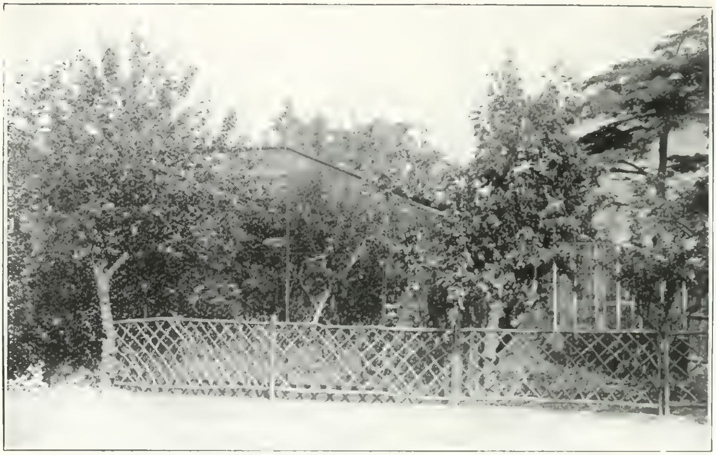
*The eye ring appeared very faint on the twenty-second day and was as distinct and clear as that of the adults three days later.



Mr. W. T. Page's Out-door Aviary—Exterior.

Photos by E. O. Page.

Mr. W. T. Page's Aviary—interior, showing entrance to shelter at left, and entrance to and from Birdroom in middle—the coarse herbage in foreground obscures gravel path. See Ground plan at D. C. and F.

certainly more snaky about the head and neck, and a bolder bird than its mate. Above it is golden-olive-yellow, brighter on the chin and throat; wings and tail dark brown with greenish-yellow margins; breast, abdomen, and flanks whitish-grey; lores and a small area below the eye black; a narrow ring of pure white feathers surrounds the eye, from which it takes its popular name "White-eye." Bill blackish with base of lower mandible bluish; iris golden-hazel, legs plumbeous. Total length 4.2 inches, tail 1¾.

Their distribution is every portion of India from Murree in the Hazara country to Sadiya in Assam, and southwards on the one hand to Ceylon and the Nicobars, and on the other to the neighbourhood of Bhàino in Upper Burma. In the Himalayas this species is found up to 7,000 feet, and it occurs all over the higher hill ranges of Southern India (Oates).

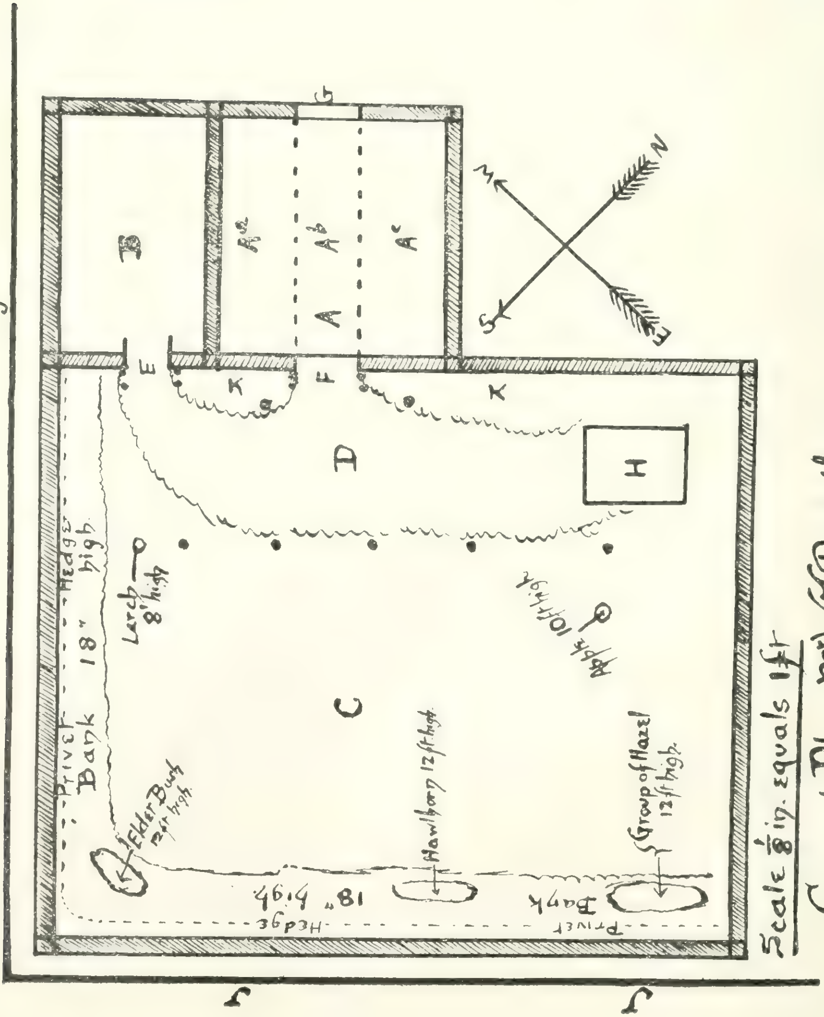
In a state of nature it breeds according to locality from January to September, but April appears to be the month in which most nests may everywhere be found. The nest is a very delicate little cup made of vegetable fibres and cobwebs, suspended in a fork of a small branch at all heights from the ground. The eggs are generally two in number and pale blue without marks, but occasionally some eggs may be met with marked at the larger end with darker blue. Size .62 by .47 (Oates).

In conclusion I may remind my readers that the pair of birds described herein came from the Bakloh (Punjab) district. and to refer them to what has already been written about this charming and dainty species in *Bird Notes*—see Vols. VIII. and I., N.S., and current vol., principally by Captain Perreau.

As regards the aviary accommodation these birds have had, this is I think sufficiently indicated in the photo and plan reproduced herewith, and here I will only add to the key of plan to state that there is abundance of cover, the flight is 12 feet high, the elder, hawthorn and hazel referred to had to be topped, and have spreading branches extending 8 feet inside the aviary, besides which there is an apple and several larch trees, whose top shoots are already through the netting of top of flight, and that the docks, mallow, cowparsley and meadow grasses have supplied the species confined herein with an abundance of wild seeds and insect life.

In this same aviary there are living together in amity with the little Zosterops and each other generally, the following species :—

Pairs: Streaked Laughing Thrushes; Snow Buntings; Black, Blue, and Archbishop Tanagers; Jacarini, Grey and Guttural Finches; Orange-cheek, Grey, and Golden-breasted Waxbills; Silky Cowbirds; Green Singing, Long-tailed Grass, Zebra and Ribbon Finches; Bronze Mannikins; Paradise Whydahs; with odd specimens of Doves, Maroon Tanager, Cape Canary, Grey-headed Ouzels, Rufous-throated Blue Sugarbirds, and a few others.



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Privet Hedge 18" high
Bank
Larch 8' high
Apple 10 ft high
C
Elder Bush 12 ft high
Hawthorn 12 ft high
Group of Hazel 12 ft high
18" high
Bank
Privet Hedge

Scale ⅛ in. equals 1 ft

Ground Plan. Mr W T Page's Aviary.

KEY TO THE GROUND PLAN.

A—Greenhouse Birdroom 10ft. x 10ft.
Aa and *Ac*—Birdroom Flights, 10ft. x 4ft. x 7ft. high.
Ab Concrete Path, with entrance doors, to Birdroom at *G* and to Aviary at *F*.
B Shelter Shed, 10ft. x 6ft., with open doorway entrance from flight only at *E*.
C—Flight, except for areas otherwise marked, the whole is covered with mixed wild grasses, with clumps of dock, cow parsley, etc.
D—Gravel Path.
E—Open Doorway Entrance to Shelter Shed with concrete base.
F.G.—*E*ntrances to Aviary and Birdroom.
H—Concrete Bath, 4ft. by 3ft.; depth ¼in. at sides, 2in. in middle, with drain-pipe soak-away underneath.
J—Garden Fence, 8ft. high.
K—Border, planted with Sunflowers, Michælmas Daisies, Creepers, Nasturtiums, Ribbon Grass, etc.
●—Standards supporting roof, Rustic Arches over Doorways *E F*, and Pergola across Path *D* to Doorway *F*. At the foot of each is planted a Rambler Rose, Hops, Everlasting Pea, Clematis, etc.
NOTE.—Besides the Bushes, etc., marked on plan, the bank is planted with Laurel, Berberis, and luxuriant Docks, Mallow, Raspberry, etc.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh, Punjab).

BY CAPT. G. A. PERREAU, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 208).

Warblers I propose to skip or practically to do so. We have a good many varieties, all delightful birds, and some with almost brilliant plumage, but—they are brutes to identify. Unless actually collecting, I do not hold with shooting, and identification from the live bird even in the hand is not easy. Then I regret to say that I cannot find my notes of the few I have identified and lastly it is more than probable that the next *Phylloscopus humi* you think you see is not that bird at all but a near relative.

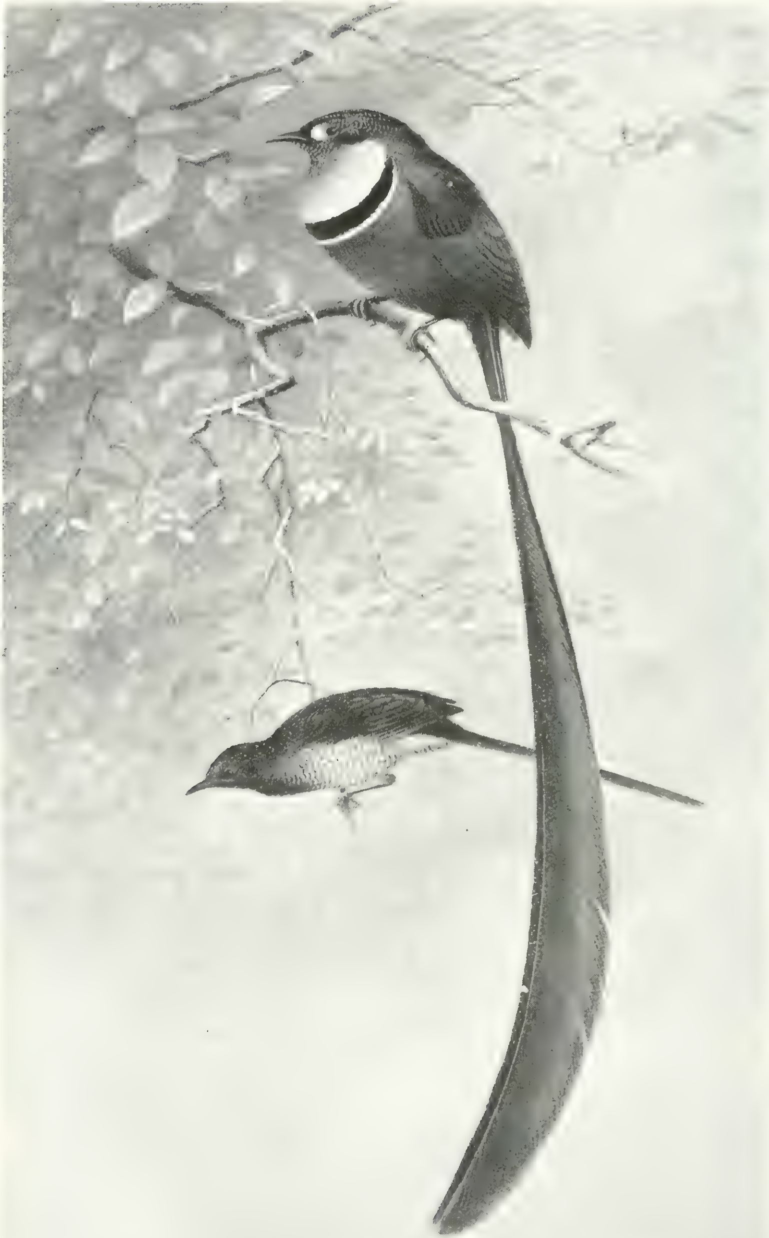
The above *P. humi* is the only one seen in winter. It (or a near relative understood throughout) breeds abundantly in May from 4,500 to 8,000 feet. Oates states that it builds "on" the ground, "in" the ground would be better. The nests I have found have been in a hole in a bank or among the roots of a tree, and nearly a foot in, with a small entrance, practically impossible to find unless one is lucky enough to spot the bird coming off.

There is another very handsome Warbler and probably Hodson's Grey-headed Flycatcher Warbler (*Cryptolopha xanthoschista*) with similar nesting habits. It is bright yellow underneath and grey above, It is common in Bakloh in summer, not going much above 6,000 at that season, and descending to the plains in winter. It is larger than the last, which is a bit smaller than the English Wren, I should say.

The third "Topsy-bird" is about the size of a Goldcrest, chiefly olive-green, with a yellowish wing-bar and a bright yellow rump. A few remain to breed in Bakloh but most pass through in early spring to breed higher up. For many years in spite of our searching in the right places neither Major Sealy (of my regiment, a very keen observer) nor myself could find the nest of any of these warblers and hence came to the conclusion that they "just grew" like Topsy. Two years ago I found the nest of the first and have since found several more. Major Sealy this year had a run of luck with the second as so often happens when one pitches on one nest. The third still remains a "Topsy-bird" to us.

Other noticeable warblers are a bird very like a Whitethroat and a jolly little Wren-warbler with a long tail, probably *Prinia socialis,* which builds a nest much like that of the Tailor-bird. Neither of these two seem to go much above 4,500 in summer, wintering lower.

I nearly forgot the Indian Tailor-bird (*Orthotomus sartorius*) but propose to say little about it, as it is a much-written-about bird. One stayed about our bungalow all last winter (1910-11), 4500 ft. I have never noted one so high up in winter before, indeed it goes little if any higher in summer. This bird kept on catching itself in a net I put in the verandah to keep down the Sparrows and finally I thought I would try to keep it for Mr. Kennedy. It meated itself off at once, which was hardly surprising, as I fancy it had been living for some time past on scraps of insect food, snaffled from the verandah table where the food was made up. It might have been in a cage all it's life judging from the way it settled down, almost steady enough to exhibit from the start, a charm-



From Life.

Princess Stephanie's Bird of Paradise (*Astrachia stephaniæ*).

ing pet. It was purely insectivorous, and most specimens I fancy would prove difficult to meat off. It is a jolly perky bird of modest colour with a note and a tail several sizes too large for its diminutive body. As will be seen from the above they can stand a considerable amount of cold; they could easily be wintered out at home provided their abode afforded them crannies to shelter in at night.

(To be continued).

The Aviaries and Birds at Hoddam Castle.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

Continued from page 195.

Owing to Mr. Brook being in Norway it was not possible to get the accompanying drawings by Mr. H. Grömvold, which Mr. Brook kindly permits us to reproduce, ready for last issue, therefore, I propose indulging in a few additional remarks on these species, and to leave the LORIIDÆ, etc., for another instalment. We thus have the privilege of figuring three species, the only living specimens of which, in this country, are to be found in the Hoddam Castle Aviaries; these are: Princess Stephanie's (vide p. 194), Meyer's Sickle-billed (vide p. 194-5) and Lesser Superb Birds of Paradise (vide p. 192-3.)

The glory of the Birds of Paradise is their various appendages (shields, ruffs, collarets, plumes, etc.), which, combined with their velvet-like and iridescent plumage, at once command attention and worship.

From the characteristic drawings reproduced herewith, it will be seen that these species are remarkable in these attributes. It is impossible to describe either the remarkable beauty, or the graceful deportment, of practically the whole group, nothing but being the delighted eye-witness of their display and also everyday movements, can do them justice, so I shall not attempt a word picture, but merely refer the reader to the drawings. It may be well to remark, however, that the ease with which a Princess Stephanie's or Meyer's Sickle-billed manipulate their lengthy plumes, carrying and displaying them gracefully, and at the same time preserving them from rough contact with the ground or branch, borders on the marvellous in some measure this same feature is common to the Whydahs.

The Lesser Superb is also a wonderful species, the breast shield appears fixed as shown, its principal changes being a forward movement and being drawn back again; neither does there appear to be much control of the elongated nape plumes by the bird, these are brought into evidence at once whenever the bird lowers the head; this attitude, so well shown in the drawing, is a very characteristic one and one of the most beautiful and interesting poses in which I saw the bird. It did not appear to me to be an active species, retaining one pose for considerable periods, but this species was housed singly.

Meyer's Sickle-billed is another extraordinary species, as a glance at the drawing will show, but must be seen to be fully admired—for with this and many other PARADISIDÆ, grace of movement (when in full plumage and display) is the chief charm of the living creature—every portion of their being appears tremulous with life, even the most trivial plume.

Quite apart from the fascination of possessing the extraordinary, the interesting, or the rare—an experience which every collector knows in some sort—the *Paradisidæ* must fascinate and enthral all who study them as living creatures, and it is easy in a measure to grip the interest and attraction Mr. Brook feels in his almost priceless collection.

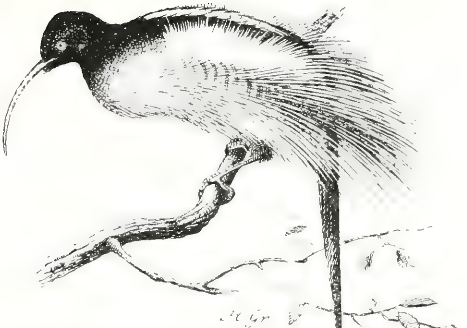
(*To be continued*).

Nesting of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

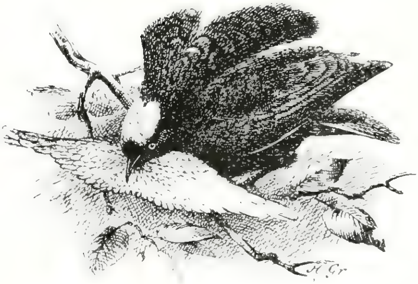
(*Hedymeles ludovicianus*).

By Hubert D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

This lovely species, now almost unprocurable (my present pair having been most kindly presented to me by the authorities of the New York Zoo) is most desirable and interesting. Perhaps before giving an account of their nesting I had better fully describe them. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak is about the size of a Red Cardinal, but its plumage is much tighter and neater. The *male* in breeding plumage is very striking; the contrasts of the black, white, and rosy-



Meyer's Sickle-billed Bird of Paradise.
(*Epimachus meyeri*).



Lesser Superb Bird of Paradise.
(*Lophorhina minor*)

From Life.

red being so conspicuous that the eye is quickly drawn to the bird in a mixed collection. The *female* is altogether different, her plumage mostly ochre-brown, streaked and spotted with darker brown, or black; under wing coverts orange-yellow. Last winter my pair were turned loose in a disused bedroom, and in May they gave indications of going to nest. In the branches of a dead spruce fir, which reached from floor to ceiling of the room, a nest was commenced, but it was very unsubstantial and of no use for containing a family. In June the female placed a few bents, etc., in a canary nest-box of wood with perforated zinc bottom, and laid two or three eggs, which were broken. Seeing that they evidently needed help, I procured a blackbird's nest and firmly fixed it in the canary nest-box, and the hen bird at once appropriated it.

It was about nine feet up and close under the ceiling, so I could not see what was going on, but in the middle of June I found egg shells on the floor from which young birds had evidently been hatched.

The shells were of a pale-blue colour blotched and spotted with rufous-umber with a broad unbroken belt, or ring, of rufous-umber round the stouter end.

Both sexes shared the duties of incubation and brooding the young. Dr. Russ records the nesting of these Grosbeaks in his bird-room and that the hen alone incubated. Recorded field notes of this species abundantly confirm the fact that both sexes incubate and brood the young—in point of fact the male bird being more frequently met with on the nest than the female (see notes by Mr. C. O. Tracey in the "Ornithologist and Oologist, Vol. X., p. 37). My bird's demeanour fully coincided with the published notes of their wild life, and I believe my male was often on the nest all night.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have proved themselves to be most harmless to other birds, for in the same room where they nested (quite a small one too) there was the following collection of mostly rare birds: pairs of Parrot Finches, Blue Budgerigars, Red-headed Gouldian Finches, Hooded Parrakeets (*Psephotus cucullatus*), Australian Fire-tailed Finches (*Zonæginthus bellus*), and two pairs of Hooded Siskins (*Chrysomitris cucullatus*), all of which were often seen perched quite close to the Grosbeak's nest, paying no attention to the sitting bird, *and in turn being paid no attention to*!

Towards the end of June I found a dead young Grosbeak, apparently eight or nine days old, placed on the sill of the window. It had evidently died in the nest and been carefully taken out and deposited there, for there were no marks of injury whatever, but the body itself was by no means fresh!

This was a great disappointment to me, but I was greatly relieved to find that they were still taking their due turns in brooding, so that I felt sure there was at least one live nestling still in the nest. This turned out to be the case.

The youngster unfortunately is (up to the date of writing) a cripple, apparently rickety in the legs, though otherwise strong and healthy. I believe it to be a male bird – it resembles the female, but the general colour, especially the wings, is much darker; as also is the brown on the crown of the head.

This youngster is now in a cage, as it is unable to perch, but I have hopes that its legs will gain strength later on, for they do not seem to be deformed.

The female I have already sufficiently described, but the male merits a detailed description, especially as it has a summer and winter plumage.

The full nuptial dress of the adult male is chiefly black on the upper surface, but there are white spots at the tips of the secondaries, etc., and the upper tail coverts and inner webs of three outer-tail feathers are white (when flying away he has a pied appearance). The under surface is a very bright and pure white, with a large patch of cardinal-rose-red on the foreneck and centre of breast, which colour runs down into a point; sides of body, and thighs greyer, and flecked with black; under wing coverts rosy; beak whitish; feet grey-blue; eyes dark hazel.

I have seen my male go through three bi-annual moults, and his winter plumage is very dingy as compared with that of the spring and summer.

In August, the rosy-red on the breast all but disappears, being obliterated by brown; the white of the under parts loses its brightness and is splashed with brown, as also is the black of the upper parts; but about March the bright and pure colours commence to re-appear, and to increase in brilliance each year.

My birds certainly feel the damp and cold of an English winter, so I removed them from the out-door aviary to their present quarters, where they have done extremely well. The male's song is very difficult to describe—the quality of the somewhat disjointed notes is good and the song is gay and buoyant,

In demeanour they are very quiet, not so active as Cardinals, and are easily tamed.

They are summer migrants to North America and Canada, wintering south. They also occur in Cozumel, Jamaica, and Cuba

Editorial.

AUSTRALIAN FINCHES AND PARRAKEETS: Next year at any rate the Australian birds will apparently be very scarce, as their exportation is now practically prohibited, and it becomes aviculturists to establish as many species in English aviaries as possible. There have been recent importations of Zebra Finches, etc., and there are a fair number of Grassfinches of sorts in various aviaries. We strongly urge all members of F.B.C. to give them every encouragement to breed that is possible, and by the exchange of young to prevent in-breeding, and make a great effort to permanently establish Australian species in English aviaries. If those able to join in such an effort will communicate with the Hon. Editor, we shall be pleased to arrange the exchange of young, to put those joining in the effort in communication with each other, and to assist in any way so that the project may have a reasonable prospect of success. *We strongly urge the matter upon our members' attention.*

Nesting Notes.

BREEDING OF TANAGERS: Our esteemed member Dr. J. Easton Scott has successfully bred both the Blue and Scarlet Tanagers, and young are now on the wing in his spacious and natural garden aviaries: an account of his success will appear in a near issue of *Bird Notes.* We recently had an opportunity of seeing both these fledgelings and congratulate Dr. Scott on so notable a success. Unfortunately the young Scarlet died the third day after leaving the nest, but the young Blue is fully reared.

YELLOW HAMMER: Our esteemed member Mr. H. Willford has successfully reared this species. We believe this is the first time young have been *fully* reared in captivity.

GENERAL: In Mr. Willford's roomy aviaries many of the "Freely Imported Species" are now feeding second broods; Grey-winged Ouzels have one brood on the wing and are engaged in bringing up the second. Olive Finches are in the same satisfactory position, and Mandarin and Carolina Ducks and Tinamous are incubating and Moorhens have a brood of young. Dr. Scott has young (second broods) of Grey-winged Ouzels, Pileated Finches, Cordon Bleus, etc., on the wing.

Dr. M. Amsler has fully reared young of Blue-breasted Waxbills, Parrot, Ruficauda, and Cuba Finches, and Chinese Painted Quails.

GOULDIAN FINCHES: Both Dr. Scott and Mr. Nicalson report young in the nest of this species—the former has four very strong young birds on the wing.

GOLD-FRONTED GREEN BULBUL: We regret that only partial success has attended the efforts of this species to reproduce its kind, in the aviary of our esteemed member Dr. M. Amsler, and we sympathise with him in what must be a keen disappointment. One young bird was duly hatched and another contained a dead chick. The chick had evidently been fed, but it was picked up dead when thirty-six hours old, in the inner compartment of the aviary, where one of the parent birds had evidently carried it. They are now incubating another clutch, which are about due to hatch, and we trust this second effort will be crowned with complete success, but they will lack the oversight of the master-eye, as Dr. Amsler is away holiday making this month.

MEDAL RECORDS: Our esteemed member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has successfully reared young of: Mealy Redpolls, Black-headed Siskins, and Black-throated Buntings. If any member is aware of any previous record of any of the above will they kindly send in details at once, or the medals will be duly granted. Detailed accounts will appear in due course.

HYBRID GRASSFINCHES: Our esteemed member Capt. G. Rice, has reared a brood of Zebra x Long-tailed Grassfinches. We are doubtful whether this cross has been previously reared in captivity, and shall be obliged if members will promptly report if they know of any such instance.

THE L.M. TRELOAR CRIPPLES' HOSPITAL AND COLLEGE AVIARIES: The following additional birds have been either sent or promised:

Comoro Weavers, Black-headed Nun, Striated and Spice Finches (by Mrs. L. Williams).

Yellow Budgerigars and Waxbills (by Hayward W. Mathias).

We tender our best thanks to all who have responded, but shall still be pleased to hear from others who have spare birds, either young or adults.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

YOUNG PIN-TAIL NONPAREIL (Miss Guildford). The illness was no doubt due to a septicaemia, which was brought about on the one hand by the insanitary conditions of importation, and on the other by our climate. More than 90 per cent. of these birds do not survive at the most two months sojourn in this country. You should feed them on a mixture of canary seed, millet, paddy rice, oats, etc., and also some ant eggs, and occasionally a mealworm. To get one bird to survive you must buy at least two dozen. The more beautiful the colour of a bird the greater its liability to a premature death.

YOUNG PAINTED FINCH. (H. W. Mathias, Hants.) Death was due to pneumonia, both lungs being as black as coal.

YELLOW BUDGERIGAR (♂). (Miss Edith F. Brickwood, Dunstable). Death was due to pneumonia and inflammation of the bowels. Enteritis is a very common disease in the summer months.

CACTUS CONURE (Miss Drummond, Mains of Megginch, Errol, N.B.) Inflammation of the bowels was the cause of death. This disease is very fatal in hot weather.

DIAMOND DOVE (young cock). (H. W. Mathias, Lucerne, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants). The liver, lungs, and intestines were affected by inflammation of a septicaemic nature. It is a very common condition during hot weather.

Siberian Goldfinch (cock). (Dr. Amsler, Eton, Windsor)' Cause of death, enteritis, of a septicæmic nature.

Shama (♂). (W. T. Rogers, Brentwood, Essex). The cause of death was pneumo-enteritis.

Canary (♀). (Mrs. Jack, Sidcup). The cause of death was pneumonia and acute fatty degeneration of the liver.

Stanley Parrakeet (♂). (J. T. Smith, Kendal). The cause of death was pericarditis and myscarditis together with peritonitis and inflammation of the liver. The thoracico-abdominal cavity was filled with fluid. The heart was enlarged, soft, and punctated with small whitish spots and the pericardial sac was completely adherent to the outer walls of the heart. The liver was enlarged, paler than usual and very fragile. When this condition is present, I usually find parasites in the peritoneal cavity, but in this case they were absent.

Canary (♀). (Mrs. Jack, Sidcup). Cause of death, inflammation of bowels.

Answered by post:—Lady Kathleen Pilkington; Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

Bird Protection: "In Greece the laws about shooting wild birds are so little enforced, it is very easy to buy a licence, and shooting allowed everywhere, that every spring and autumn thousands of poor migrants fall a victim to stupidity and ignorance.

"My only consolation is that most of the shooters are very bad shots, so more birds escape than would otherwise be the case.

"About the plague of grass-hoppers I can only tell you that the present Minister of Agriculture offered to pay 1f. for each large bag of grass-hoppers, but that few people really cared to earn the money, they preferred to sit and cry over the damage."

So writes a lady living in Greece.

The law in the British Isles is very strict against bird-catchers and fanciers taking birds, especially during the close season, yet country boys and farmers destroy them wholesale, the former by robbing the nests, and the latter by poisoning. During the early part of this summer in consequence of the dry weather, thousands of thrushes, blackbirds, etc., have died from starvation, the dry weather either destroying the slugs, worms, etc., or driving them into obscurity and beyond the reach of the parent birds. Snow in March and April causes a great mortality. The gardener and fruit-grower destroy bull-finches, hawfinches, etc., by the hundred.

One may witness the natural destruction of birds during the close season, but the law does not permit one to take them with the object of preserving their lives in cages.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

IMPORTANT.—Mr. Gray will be out of town during the whole of August and requests that members do not send any bodies for examination during that month.

Photos by E. O. Page.

Red-collared Lorikeets feeding from hand in Mr. Page's Aviary.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Aviaries and Birds at Hoddam Castle.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

Continued from page 234.

I cannot leave the *Paradiseidæ* without quoting from two letters recently received from Mr. Brook, referring to the Rifle Bird and Princess Stephanie's Birds of Paradise.

THE RIFLE BIRD :

"The Rifle Birds laid three times in all, two eggs each "time and all were broken. They then built two nests, one in "the inner house, and the other in the flight. I shall leave "the nests where they are in the hope that they may use "one of them next year."

THE PRINCESS STEPHANIE'S B. OF P. :

"One hen *Astrachia stephaniæ* had to be placed in an "aviary by herself, as she would not permit the cock to feed. "She seemed to be in breeding condition, while the male was "coming into moult. She has built a firm nest in her compart-"ment, but has not laid."

Three days later Mr. Brook writes as follows :

"The hen *stephaniæ* has laid an egg. The egg is long "and large, larger than a rook's egg I should say and more "oval in shape; the ground colour is buff and it is heavily "marked with brown and purple blotches. The nest is a rough "rather loose structure, and is built in the inner part of the "aviary. It is placed on a natural branch at the end, where "that is fastened to the wall. It is composed of a few birch "twigs and a quantity of the bamboo twigs and leaves; a "very little moss has been used but, the nest is practically "unlined."

"Unfortunately this egg will be useless for reproduction, "as the male was in full moult when the hen came into breeding "condition; they had to be separated about six weeks ago, "to save the life of the male. The hen was so vicious."

Disappointing as these abortive attempts have been, they are full of promise for next season, and it is distinctly a step in advance, being the first time nests have been constructed or eggs laid in this country.

LORIIDÆ.

Black Lory (*Chalcopsittacus ater*) : This fine species when seen in the aviary is not by any means so sombre as its name would indicate, in fact it has a real quiet and uncommon beauty of its own, especially when the sun's rays illuminate the apparently funereal lines of its plumage with bronzy reflection. In fact the only really black areas of their plumage are the tail and flights, the eyes, beak and feet are also black; the general colouration is a very deep claret colour; rump and lower back blue (obscured by the wings when at rest); the underside of tail feathers is a combination of orange and red. Sombre! Their beauty struck me greatly as I watched them disporting in the aviary. Mr. Brook has two pairs and one young as yet unsexed. To Mr. Brook belongs the honour of being the first to breed this species in captivity. In 1909 he reared one young bird and again in 1910 young were reared; this year none have been reared, they have nested and laid, but the eggs were deserted, evidently the extreme dry heat of this season has not suited them. For nesting details see *B.N.*, Vol. viii., p. 268, and Vol. i., N.S., p 28. This was the first species of true Lory to be bred in captivity.

Stella's Lory (*Charmosyna stellæ*) : This truly gorgeous species was figured in colour by Mr. Goodchild in *B.N.*, Vol. i., N.S., p. 65. To this and the accompanying article I must refer readers and also for nesting notes to same Vol. at pages 177, 199, 237, and 303. But the fullest description can but faintly indicate their glowing beauty this can only be fully seen as the birds disport themselves in a roomy aviary, and I watched them, entranced. Several young birds were fully reared last season (first time in captivity) but this season, though they have nested, laid eggs and hatched them out, the young have died in the nest—evidently extreme *dry* heat does not suit the LORIIDÆ. For the benefit of new readers I had better briefly say that Mr. Brook feeds his Lories on milk sop (containing barley water), fruit syrups and unlimited ripe fruit. Full notes and treatment from Mr. Brook's pen are given in Vol viii., p.p. 166 to 169.

Red-collared Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*):

This beautiful uncommon and interesting species has been frequently described in our pages (*vide B.N.*, Vol. viii., and Vol. i., N.S.) Mr. Brook's pair were in exquisite plumage and soundest condition, yet, strange to say, though eggs galore have been laid, none have hatched out. I possessed a pair for three years, which passed into the possession of our esteemed member Miss Drummond last year.—I have recently heard from Miss Drummond that she has heard the voices of young birds in the nest log. Though previously, birds given aviary accommodation, had refused to nest successfully, a young bird was hatched out (still living), in one of the large cages in the Parrot House at the London Zoo. These birds are not only gorgeous, especially on the wing, but are very interesting and amusing pets; no matter how large their enclosure be, they come to the hand for food and play around one's feet like puppies, also taking all sorts of liberties with one's person, the difficulty being to leave the aviary without bringing them out on shoulder or arm. The photos reproduced herewith were taken in my aviary and is but a single instance of their absolute fearlessness once they are accustomed to their owners and having learned this lesson, do not hesitate to take the same liberties with strangers entering their enclosure. From a recent letter I learn that Mr. Brook's pair have again failed to rear young, which is most surprising, considering their condition and accommodation—an illustration, I presume, of the perversity of bird-life.

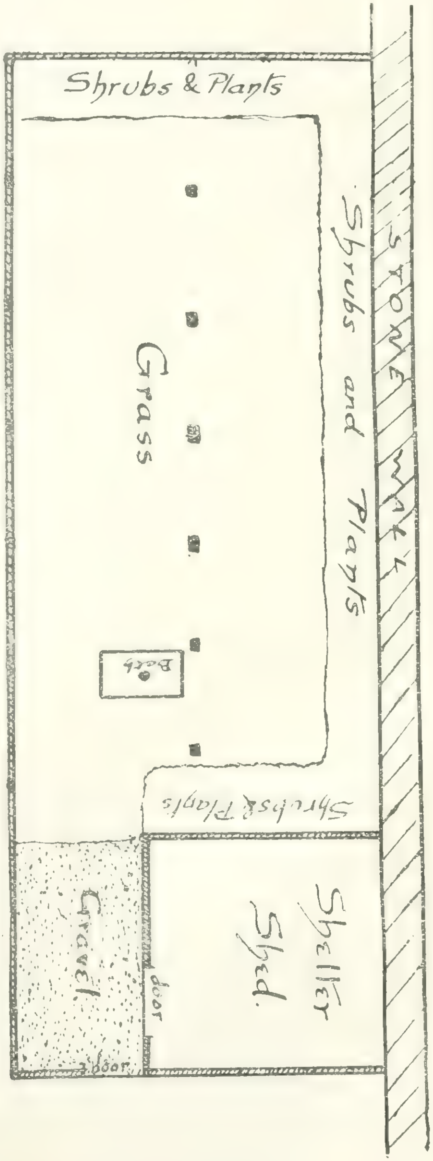
To be continued.

A Yorkshire Aviary.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

Our esteemed member Mr. C. H. Robinson, of Glaisdale, is a new and enthusiastic adherent to the fascinating hobby of Foreign Bird keeping, commencing last year with a wired enclosure in a lobby between two greenhouses. The birds kept, mostly "freely imported species," did well but there were some losses owing to a fluctuating temperature--too hot if anything.

After consultation with myself, he decided to put up an out-door aviary and the resulting erection, of which we give a photo-reproduction, should prove very successful and also be very spectacular when the various trees, shrubs and creepers have become established, and the naked poles (framing standards) are clad in living green.

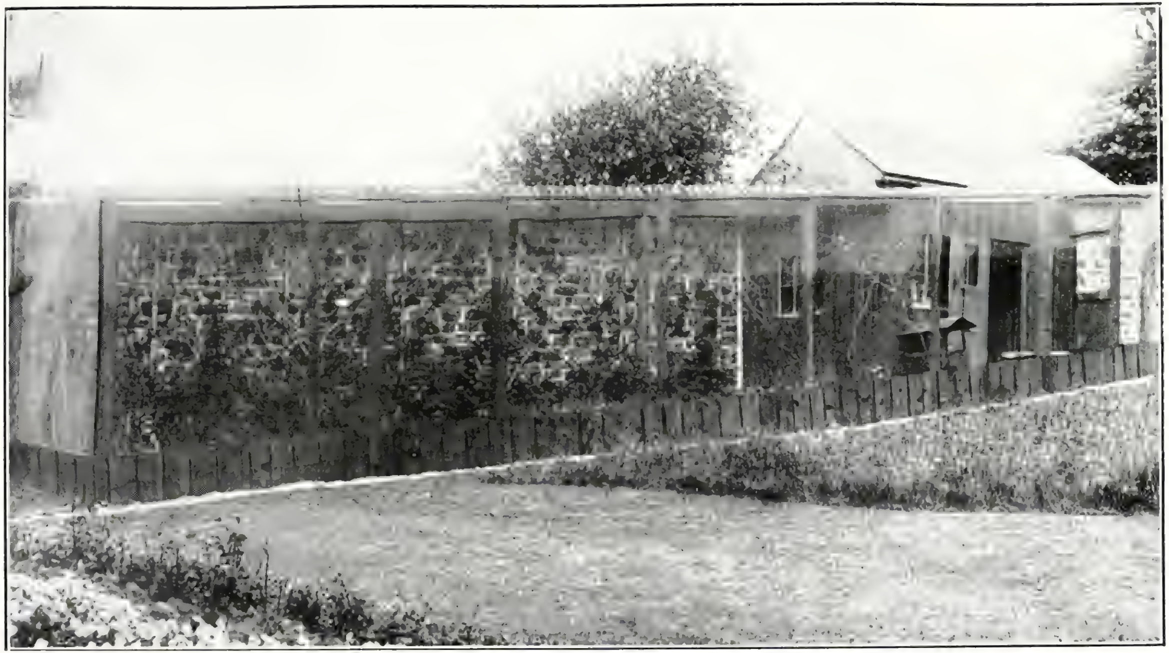

Shrubs & Plants
Stone Wall
Shrubs and Plants
Grass
Bath
Shrubs & Plants
Shelter Shed.
Gravel
door
door

Ground Plan—A Yorkshire Finch Aviary.

■ Standards—at foot of each is planted a Rambler Rose, etc.

The stone wall is covered with Peach trees.

Scale 1/8 inch = one foot.



Mr. C. H. Robinson's Finch Aviary.

The aviary covers an area 45 feet x 15 feet of which 10 feet x 10 feet is given up to a lofty and well lighted shelter. The photo, through it well indicates the general character of shed and flight, certainly does not do justice to a roomy, natural and pleasingly arranged enclosure. The flight is entirely given up to grass, plants, etc., with the exception of a space 10 feet x 6 feet in front of the shelter, which is gravel—here is placed a large seed hopper, constructed to catch husks, etc., which fall into a trough, thus preventing the untidy litter of husks, etc., usually associated with aviaries chiefly given up to seed-eaters. The flight contains a large shallow cement bath, and flight and shed are well furnished with various nesting receptacles. At present it contains about one hundred inhabitants—Finches, Waxbills, Mannikins, Tanagers, Buntings, Doves, and Pigeons.

FINCH AVIARY.

Scarlet Tanagers.
Crowned Tanagers.
Blue Tanagers.
Indigo Buntings.
Yellow Buntings.
Cordon Bleus
Indian Silverbills.
Red-crested Cardinals.
Virginian Cardinals.
Green Singing Finch.
Long-tailed Grassfinches.
Combassous.
Paradise Whydahs.
Java Sparrows.
Saffron Finches.
Alario Finches.
Ribbon Finches.
Zebra Finches.
Spice Finches.
Orange-cheeked Waxbill.
Common (Grey) Waxbill.
St. Helena Waxbill.
Golden-breasted Waxbill.
Weavers (several species).
Green Avadavat.
Red Avadavat
Black-headed Mannikins.
Magpie Mannikins.
Doves (several species).

The above are mostly in pairs.

PARRAKEET AVIARY.

This contains several pairs of Green and Yellow Budgerigars, and pairs of Cockateels, Red-rump Parrakeets, Madagascar and Black-cheek Lovebirds.

The aviary was completed and the birds turned in about April 30th, and the birds have all done well, but up to the present only Zebra Finches have been bred—the extreme dry heat, evidently not being to the taste of very many species and this experience has been fairly general.

I should say the aviary forms a pleasing feature of Mr. Robinson's extensive and tastefully laid out grounds.

At the top of the kitchen garden is a fairly roomy Parrakeet aviary, given up to Budgerigars, Red-rumps, Cockateels, and Lovebirds, none of which had gone to nest up to June 30th, but this aviary like the other was only completed in early May and doubtless results will be very satisfactory next season—though there should be some results this season—the *dry* heat, according to reports to hand from many sources has been all against the nesting of Parrakeets. After an experience of winter's difficulties Mr. Robinson proposes to add the rarer and more uncommon species to his collection, and I opine more aviaries to accommodate them.

My Aviaries and their Inmates.

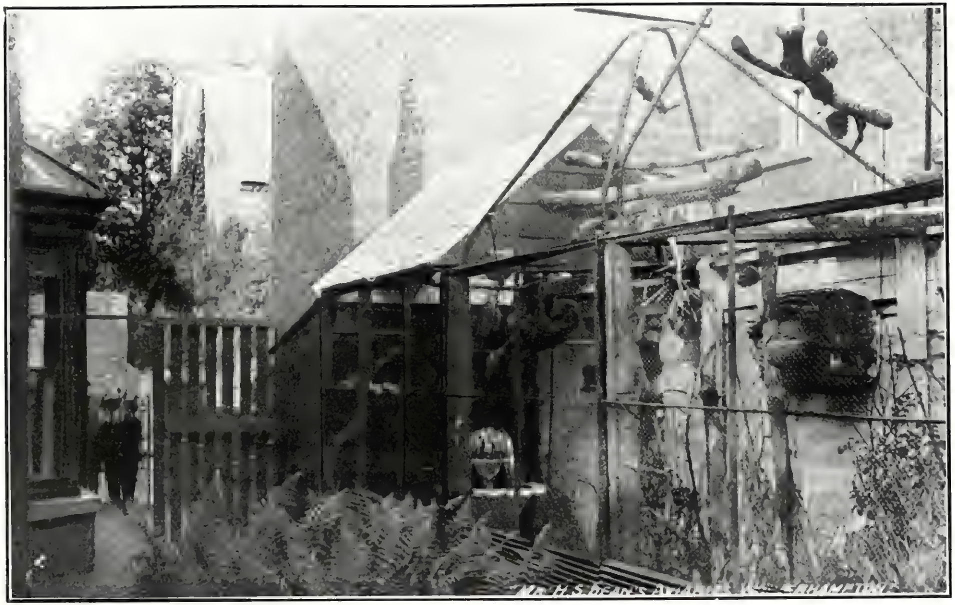
By H. S. Dean.

Possibly a description of my two aviaries and their inmates may prove of general interest, and I enclose two photos hoping they may be suitable for reproduction.

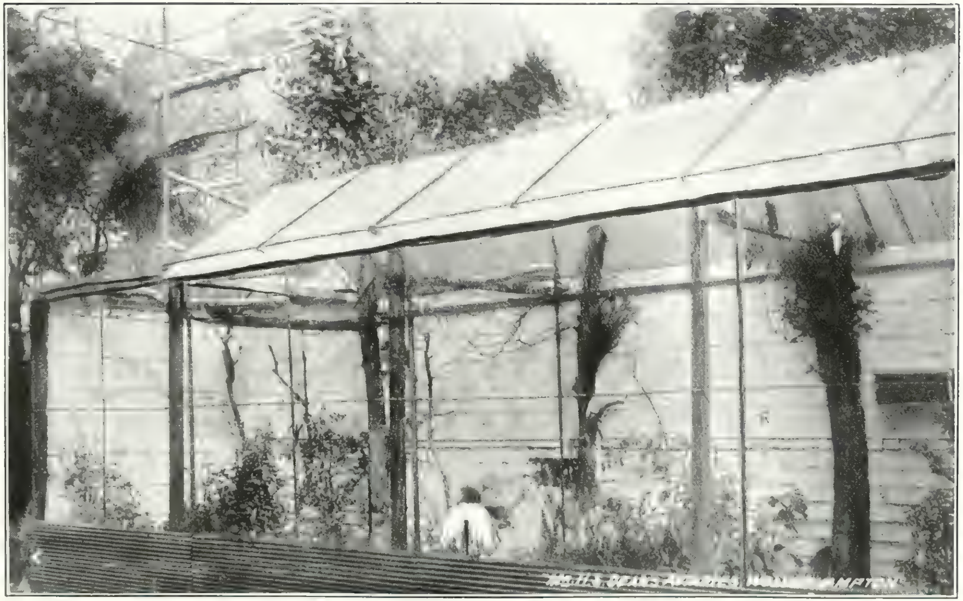
No. 1 Aviary: This is 19ft. long with one dome 12ft. high, and the other 15ft.; the entire front and both domes (equalling 11 feet) are open netting, the other 8ft. is covered with glass. There is a shelter at one end 6ft. x 4ft. with small holes in front for birds to get to and fro, and a window for lighting purposes. In this the birds remain out all the year round and have done well—the furnishings, etc., are sufficiently indicated on photos, rendering description unnecessary.

In this aviary I have Red-rump Parrakeets, Golden-faced and Golden-crowned Conures, Cockateels, Budgerigars, all the English Finches, Cardinals, etc. I have bred Red-rumps, Cockateels, Cardinals and Lovebirds. Last year the Madagascar Lovebirds reared me two nests of young (a detailed account of your success would be of general interest, Ed.) The Blue-winged Lovebirds (Passerine Parrakeet) also nested but no young were reared. I supply old tree logs, rotten in middle, which are greatly appreciated by the birds.

I supply an ample variety of seed, mixed canary (ordinary), sunflower, white millet, canary, and millet sprays, all in separate hoppers (self-feed), also greenfood *ad lib.*, such as chickweed, water cress, lettuce—in fact anything



No. 1 Aviary.



No. 2 Aviary.

going. The flight is covered with fifteen inches of red ashes.

No. 2 Aviary : This was only completed this year and results have only been small up to the present. It is 26 feet long, 7 feet high at front, with a glass roof over 20 feet of the flight, with a sort of tower (6 feet) at one end, 14 feet high. The shelter is not included in photo. In this aviary there are a number of growing plants and bushes, such as laurel, holly, elder, hazel, poplar, etc.—the birds build in the most bushy, mostly laurel and poplar.

This aviary contains no Parrakeets, and among others the following :—

Bulbuls.
Alario Finches.
Grenadier Weaver.
Madagascar Weaver.
Orange Weaver
Napoleon Weaver.
Red-billed Weaver.
Green Singing Finches.
Grey Singing Finches.
Long-tailed Grassfinches.
Orange-cheeked Waxbill.
Grey Waxbill.
Goldfinches.
Combassous.
Whydahs.

and many other Finches.

Though the aviary is of such recent construction, Long-tailed Grassfinches, Cutthroats and cross-mated Brown Linnet x Grey Singing Finch have nested.

The Long-tailed Grassfinches and Cutthroats successfully reared their young.

I have also had eggs from Avadavats and Orange-cheeked Waxbills, but they did not incubate.

Cross Mating Results : Brown Linnet x Grey Singing Finch.—A nest was duly built and five eggs were laid of which only one was fertile and duly hatched out, unfortunately the young bird died when five weeks old. It resembled the Brown Linnet in colour, but was about the same size and shape of the Grey Singing Finch.

Canary x Grey Singing Finch : The result of this union was three young birds, of which one (the only cock and a fine singer) got drowned in the fountain. These hybrids resembled the Canary in build and were greyish-brown in colour, splashed with yellow on the flights.

Alario Finch x Grey Singing Finch : These birds duly nested and laid, but did not incubate.

As regards food I supply mixed canary, white millet,

millet sprays, wasp cake, ants' "eggs," dried flies, banana, apples, suet (much liked by the birds), soft food, unlimited greenfood and mealworms every morning.

General : In both aviaries I have fountains, thus securing a continuous supply of running water. The seed hoppers were made to my own design—they have glass backs and the seed slides over perforated zinc, thus getting rid of dust—they do not require daily attention.

Though the flights are large I find the birds very tame, coming close to me for mealworms, especially the Pekin Robins, the latter being the favourites with most of my friends. All the birds are out in the coldest weather, and if there is any snow they seem to enjoy getting into it. In winter I supply hemp and linseed, also a little scalded wheat.

My Aviaries and Birds.

By G. E. Haggie.

In response to the Editor's request for notes of my birds I pen the following notes and hope they may prove of some little interest.

My latest aviary for which Mr. Page kindly suggested alternate plans was erected by Messrs. Boulton and Paul, and is a handsome though costly (£50) structure for its size.

As a photo-reproduction and ground plan accompanies these notes a lengthy description is uncalled for. It is 12 feet long, 8 feet broad, and about 16 feet to ridge. The shed is double boarded with felt between; the floor is concrete. The flight is planted as a garden, with a cement bath 2 feet in diameter, and 1½ inches deep at the centre; the water supply therein is kept up by a small fountain, and when the spray is turned on full, it is of sufficient capacity to cover the whole flight—very useful for cleansing and watering purposes. The east side of aviary is wood and glass, protected with wire on the inside. All the wire-work throughout is straight woven, and has a much more handsome appearance than ordinary netting. It is painted grass green, and is quite an ornamental feature of the front portion of the garden. it is fixed on to the buttress of the kitchen chimney, which will keep the inner compartment comfortably warm in winter.

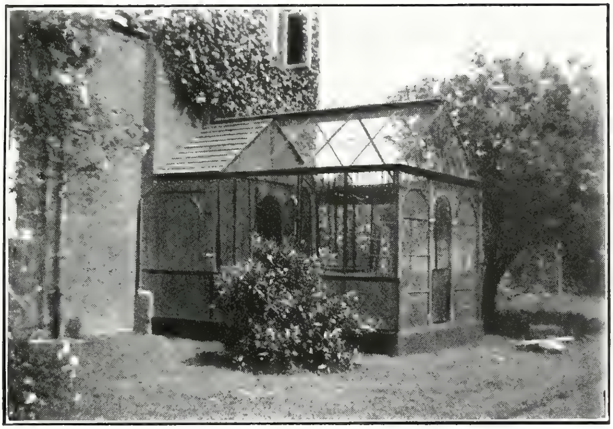
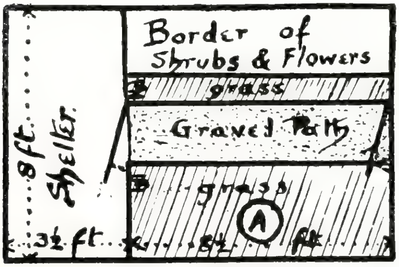


Photo by Miss Elaine Haggie.


Border of Shrubs & Flowers
B
grass
Gravel Path
B
grass
A
8 ft.
Shelter
3½ ft.
8½ ft.

Ground Plan.
A. Bath 2' dia, with Fountain.
B.B. Base of trellis arch over doorway with Rambler Rose.

Mr. G. E. Haggie's New Aviary.

Its Inmates: While none are really rare, many are very beautiful and all are very fit. There are the following in pairs unless otherwise stated:—

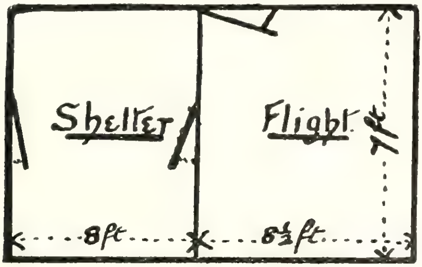
Cordon Bleus (2 pairs), Golden-breasted Waxbills (2 pairs), Common Avadavats (2 pairs), Lavender Finches, Grey Waxbills, St. Helena Waxbills, Firefinches, Orange-cheeked Waxbills, Zebra Finches, Green Singing Finches, Pintail Nonpareils (2 pairs), Grey Singing Finch (♂), Pekin Robin (♂), Nonpareil Bunting (♂).

The above have only been in occupancy about a month as there was some little delay in getting the aviary completed—so breeding notes will not be expected, but a pair of Avadavats are closely incubating a clutch of eggs in a coco-nut husk, and the little cock is very fierce and excited.

A pair of Cordon Bleus have filled a Hartz travelling cage with hay, laid several eggs and are busily incubating.

None of the other species have yet made any attempt to nest.

The Old Aviary: This is a little larger than the new one, being 16½ feet long by 7 feet wide; the whole of the flight as well as shelter is roofed in with corrugated iron and the floors of shed and flight are concreted. An old tree adorns the centre of flight, but of this there now only remains the stumps and two branches. The bath is a glass vessel, food hoppers, nest boxes, logs, and husks, are dispersed about the aviary, and the birds have all done well and losses with the acclimatised birds have been very few—breeding results have been quite ordinary.



Ground Plan.

The Inmates: Here I have pairs of Cockateels, Madagascar Lovebirds, White Java Sparrows, and six pairs of Green and Yellow Budgerigars; also the following odd cocks: Madagascar, Masked, Orange, Napoleon and Grenadier Weavers and a Paradise Whydah.

I have just disposed of six young Cockateels, but have had practically no luck with Budgerigars this year, however, there are now half a dozen or more just out of the nest.

The Lovebirds have made no attempt to nest, and the supposed pair of white Java Sparrows proved to be two hens and though since by exchange I have procured a true pair, there has been no nesting result up to the present.

The Weavers are a grand sight being all in nuptial plumage.

One of my happiest recollections in this aviary was the breeding of four Gouldian Finches some four years ago, but my stock died out, and though I recently tried to procure more for the new aviary I was not successful but hope yet to add a pair of this beautiful species to the new aviary.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 140.

The name BROWN-NECKED PARROT (*Pœocephalus fuscicollis*), is that by which it is known at the Zoo, but our birds differ in many respects from the descriptions of that species which I have read, particularly in the differences between the young and old. When I first saw these birds here I thought that they were the same as *P. levaillanti*, a few of which I saw in South Africa, but as soon as I got a specimen in my hands I saw that our bird was quite different to the South African one; for one thing our bird's beak is half as big again, I should think, as that of Levaillant's Parrot. During the seven years I have been in the Gambia I have had a good number of these birds through my hands, both alive and dead, and have often watched the change from the red-headed stage of the youngster to that of the grey-headed red-winged and thighed adult, and am quite sure that all my red-headed birds were young ones, as practically all were brought me from the nest before they could fly.

The following notes taken from three birds I had alive in April, 1906, gives the differences in their plumage at the different ages.

No. 1. A very old bird, which had been slightly winged by a shot the previous January and which eventually went to the Zoo. Whole head (including forehead), neck, and upper chest brown-grey, each feather with a darker centre; a reddish tinge on chin. Back dusky green; scapulars, flights, and tail dull black with a greenish tinge; rump, upper tail coverts, breast, abdomen, thighs, and under tail-coverts grass green, brightest on the rump; under wing-coverts dark green merging into grey. Edge of wing (at angle) and ring round lower end of thigh orange-vermilion. Sexes apparently alike. The beak, which is very large and strong and looks out of all proportion to the size of the bird, is horn-coloured; the cere a paler shade of the same colour. Legs black; iris dark brown. Length 12 inches.

No. 2. A younger but nearly adult bird noosed on a ground-nut heap. Like No. 1, with a grey head, but the green of the rump and under surface was not quite so bright and there was no sign of vermilion on the angle of the wing or thighs.

No. 3. A very young but fully feathered bird, with just a few tufts of down showing on back and breast; taken from nest. The whole crown from forehead to nape bright brick-red (or rather a colour between brick-red and pink), with a pale wash of the same colour over the rest of the head, the ground colour of which is brownish grey as in the adult. This red persists for four or five months after the bird leaves the nest, and during the time gradually changes into the grey of the adult, though some signs of it last till the first moult. In other respects the plumage resembled that of No. 2.

In Rochebrune's "Oiseaux de Senegambie" there is a coloured (rather crude) plate of *P. fuscicollis* (Reichenbach), which exactly represents our adult bird, but in the descriptions of the species I have seen the forehead and cheeks of the adult are described as red (certainly not the case in our bird), and there is no mention of the red heads in the young. In the Hand List of Birds of the British Museum two *Pœocephali* are given, whose range includes Senegambia (1) P. *senegalus*, the Senegal Parrot, which is very common here and (2) *P. rubricapillus*. I have never seen any description of the latter, and wonder whether it is our bird or whether perhaps *P. rubricapillus* may have been named from a young specimen of the Gambian bird. Perhaps some reader may be able to help on this point of diagnosis. These birds, whatever may be their proper scientific name are well-known here as Bambara* Jobo (the Bambara Parrot), their Mandingo name, which they owe to the common belief that they come from the East, where the Bambara people live, and because of their strength and size, the Bambaras being a particularly tall and powerful race.

In the Gambia these Parrots appear to be confined to that part of the country between the mouth of the Vinntang Creek (about 30 miles from the sea), and the McCarthy Island District, some 150 miles up the river, and within these limits are especially common on the South Bank where the country is well-wooded and fringed with a very deep belt of Mangroves. They never seem to wander far away from the river, or its creeks at any time, and even on our boundary, though in most places this is only seven miles from the river, one never sees them, nor have I ever come across a single individual in the Upper River, where there are no Mangroves (and therefore probably no attractions for the Bambaras) nor in the districts near Bathurst and the sea, where although there are plenty of Mangroves, these are bushes rather than trees. In fact one may say that they confine themselves to that part of the country where the water is neither too salt nor too fresh, but sufficiently brackish to encourage a luxuriant growth of Mangroves. In the breeding season they are even more local and are then hardly ever to be seen outside the Mangrove belt.

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*The two last a's are short, to be pronounced as in the name Barbara.—[E.H.]

During the winter months they go about in parties of six to twelve, visiting the farms and clearings to feed on the groundnuts, which are dug up about November, and left in heaps in the open to dry, but every evening they are to be seen flying off in the direction of the river, to roost in the trees which border it. They make their presence known far and wide as they fly over by their hoarse grating cries, and look when on the wing as if they were weighed down in front by their huge beaks and heads, though in spite of this apparent topheaviness their flight, accomplished with very rapid wing-beats, is fast and powerful. Their breeding season commences about March or April, and they make their nests in holes in the larger trees of the Mangrove belt, which is half forest, half swamp, an almost impenetrable growth, except by means of the small creeks which in places pierce it, and to which they keep themselves almost entirely during the hot months of the year. Occasionally an odd one or two may be met with in the open at this season, but never more, and these would only be a pair or so flying over from one Mangrove-bordered creek to another or perhaps merely taking a short flight to break the monotony of their household cares. One May I had to spend the night in a canoe in one of the creeks of the South Bank, owing to the stupidity of my boatmen, who kept taking the wrong turnings and eventually landed us, with a rapidly falling tide in a *cul-de-sac*, thus converting what might have been an hour's journey into one of rather more than twelve hours; that morning I shall always remember how I was awakened by the really deafening clamour with which a party of these Bambaras waking up in the tree-tops greeted the first rays of the rising sun, and the zest with which a few moments later they came down to a shallow place and took their morning drinks and baths. The sight of these Parrots, which, from what I had seen of them in the dry season or in captivity, I had always regarded as morose and rather sluggish birds, playing in and round the water and darting about most actively among the branches or helping one another to preen and dry their plumage, was almost sufficient to make up for one of the most unpleasant nights I have ever spent,—aground in a leaking canoe, rocking on a sunken log, surrounded on all sides by black mud, blacker water, and slippery Mangrove roots, with millions of mosquitoes and other flying things to plague or bite, while at intervals huge slimy beasts, half slug, half caterpillar dropped from the boughs above. It is in such safe places that the Bambaras breed, and I should think that under such circumstances and in such naturally protective surroundings, their infant mortality should be low. Their only enemies here (except for the very occasional small boy who would venture so far after their young) must be the Green Monkeys, and against them the old birds should have splendid weapons in their terrible beaks; one bitten, by one of these a Monkey would be more than twice shy, for he would carry for the rest of his days in what was left of his hand and fingers a souvenir, which would make him most chary of ever putting his fingers into holes again to look for Parrot eggs.

As cage birds, as I said before, I can hardly recommend the Bambaras. I have had a good many at times, a few of which have got home, mostly to the Zoo, but they certainly do not do well in captivity. The young I have almost given up trying to keep, as I have never yet known any survive longer than eight months, an age too that was only reached by one of my birds most of which died soon after being taken or at any rate within six months. While hand fed they take readily what is given them, chiefly crushed and chewed groundnuts, with perhaps a little bread, biscuit, or boiled rice, and as they get older and begin to feed themselves, will eat groundnuts freely, though nothing else, but they rarely seem to thrive. I think the reason must be that they are fed by their parents almost entirely on the seeds or fruit of the Mangroves, among which they are born, and that for this we can supply no efficient substitute. The old birds thrive better or at any rate last longer; one I had lived two years at the Zoo, after it got there, and there is another there now, looking as well as a Bambara can look, when I last saw him, who must be more than eighteen months old by now. But even the old ones can hardly be said to do really well in captivity; there is certainly no trouble about getting them to feed when first caught, as they will begin to eat groundnuts within a few hours, and as long as these are fresh and full of oil, as we get them here, they do well enough, but after about May, when the nuts begin to get dry and especially later on in England, where the groundnuts obtainable are dried up, wretched little things, compared to the fresh article out here, they apparently get very little nourishment out of their food and gradually decline. If one could get them earlier on to some other suitable Parrot food, such as maize, sunflower, rice, bread, or potato, they would no doubt have a better chance, but most of those I have would apparently rather go hungry than try a new diet; they would sit all day with an abundance of all sorts of good food round them waiting till their master relented and put in a handful of their favourite nuts, when down they came and gobbled for all they were worth. The two birds which survived longest certainly owed their survival to their having taken fairly early to other food as the supply of groundnuts decreased; the one at the Zoo would eat a little ordinary seed and sopped maize, while the last I took home would occasionally condescend to take a small piece of bread or potato, even before the groundnuts began to get old and unsatisfactory. I see I said at the beginning of this article that the Bambaras never got tame; however every rule has an exception, and I must not forget to mention one I saw in Bathurst some years ago, which was really steady and apparently reconciled to captivity, though I noticed that its owner never trusted his fingers within reach of his pet's beak and that when changing the water tin in its cage, he was careful to keep the hand inside near the bird's tail end, while the other (outside) engaged and interested its head.

Nov., 1910. I can now add that I know two "Bambaras" which have reached at last the age of two years in captivity. They originally came from the Gambia, and are still thriving in England, one at the Zoo, the other with a friend, but I do not think either can be called tame or really reconciled to cage-life.

To be continued.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh, Punjab).

By Captain G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page 233*).

SHRIKES: We have two which are common summer visitors. Both make very good pets when hand-reared. Wild caught birds I have not tried but fancy they would be difficult to steady down. They have some quite pleasing notes and some very harsh ones. They appear to be fair mimics. Both build large nests, untidy as to the outside, in bushes or bushy trees from May to June. The eggs are of the usual Shrike type.

The Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*), is a good deal the smaller of the two and is a natty handsome bird. Oates calls it resident, but, I think it must be put down as a vertical migrant, as I have seen it in summer up to nearly 6,000 feet, and in winter never above 3,500 feet.

Description: Middle of head white, turning grey on back of the head and nape; usual Shrike eye-stripe and forehead black; back and scapulars deep chestnut-maroon; rump white; wings black with a white patch; tail black and white; breast fulvous darker on flanks; remaining lower plumage white. Length 7.5 inches, tail 3.4.

The Rufous-backed Shrike (*L. erythronotus*) is not nearly such a showy bird. It is far more of a migrant, going higher in summer and lower in winter.

Description: Forehead and eye-stripe black; rest of head and upper back pale grey; remaining upper parts rufous; wings blackish edged with rufous; tail, middle feathers black, outer brown all tipped with rufous; chin, throat, and upper breast white; remaining lower plumage rufous. Length about 10 inches, tail 4.7.

MINIVETS: The Short-billed Minivet (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*), often called Cardinal bird by the Anglo-Indian, is quite one of the features of the pine forest, be it Deodar or the less aristocratic "chil" which grows lower down and whose chief virtue lies in thriving where no other trees do well. A flock of a dozen or so hunting through a young plantation is a sight well worth going some distance for. As a rule only about one in five are red, but the hens and young are just as handsome in their way. Their pleasing whistle is so frequently uttered, that one discovers the presence of a flock by ear long before one sees them. They are strictly insectivorous and arboreal, and usually frequent high trees, hence my particular mention above of a young plantation. When trapping in 1907-08 I was not over well equipped in the trap line, and they defeated my efforts but, given a certain amount of leisure to devote to their capture, I would back myself to be successful now. Cocks have occasionally been taken home, but I believe not the hens.* Of course a single cock would be better than nothing, but a small flock in a large outdoor aviary with small pines growing in it, is what I should like to see. Even during the breeding season pairs do not seem to separate out much; they would not hurt the trees, and, given a shelter, there need be no fear of cold doing the birds harm, if a liberal diet were given. I fancy they would take to small beetles that most other birds reject.

I caught a half-fledged young one in the compound some years ago (shame on me I never found the nest), and kept it in a cage for a bit for the old ones to feed. The cock looked after the other young, but the hen plucked up courage and came right into the verandah to do her duty. The food chiefly consisted of young "smelly beetles," a shield shaped insect, which can at certain or rather uncertain times of the year emit a most searching and abominable odour when touched. Those given were in the green stage, and inoffensive. I had neither the time nor the food ingredients to risk keeping the bird so let it go after about ten days' confinement.

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*Recently imported by E. J. Brook, Esq.

They nest in May and June. The nest is very well concealed, being placed on a thickish branch fairly high up, and covered with moss and lichen. I have seen them round here as far up as I have been nearly 9,000 in summer and as low down as 4,500. In winter they descend almost to the plains and may be seen at above 5,500 feet. In Chitral I never saw them at all in winter, although I occasionally went down as low as 4,000 feet, perhaps a bit lower. Scully reports them as present all the year in Nepal and as present in the winter in Gilgit. I cannot remember the height of Gilgit, but to put it mildly, it is considerably over 5,000 feet, and very cold.

Description: Head and back black; the rump and entire lower plumage crimson; other parts black picked out with crimson. Female: Forehead, rump, and entire lower plumage yellow; crown of head and back ashy green; tail black picked out with yellow; other parts brown picked out with yellow. Length about 7.5 inches, tail 4..

THE ROSY MINIVET (*P. roseus*) is hardly a Station bird as I have never seen it above 2,000 feet, and one thousand feet down seems far more out of the Station than a couple of thousand up. It is smaller and duller than the last, yet it is a most desirable bird. I know little about it, and it is some time since I have seen it. It goes about in small flocks of half-a-dozen or so, and has a pleasing note.

Rough Description: General colour brown or ashy brown; rump rosy red; a scarlet patch on the wing; chin and throat whitish; remaining under parts rosy red. The female roughly has the red parts replaced by yellow. Length 7 inches, tail 3.5, but hardly looks as large.

ORIOLES: The only Oriole we get is the Indian (*Oriolus kundoo*). It arrives from the plains towards the end of April, as a rule, though sometimes earlier, and soon settles down to nesting operations. We generally have a nest in the compound, a cup hung from the horizontal fork of a fir, sometimes very high up. I fancy the same pairs go year after year to nearly the same place. It exists chiefly on fruit, though doubtless insects are taken too, especially when feeding their young. I took a nest of young in Chitral at a tender age; something went wrong with the branch the nest was on while we were inspecting it. A Madrassi servant successfully reared them, chiefly on mulberries, with a few grasshoppers. I think they came to grief on the journey back. They are very noisy birds if one may insult their musical calls by the term noise. Often in Chitral after a long trudge under a scorching sun over a bare sandy stretch one has been cheered by their calls, which meant shade, cold water, fruit of some sort, and above all, other birds. It is a lovely bird; bar a little black on the sides of the face, some on the tail and wings, he is all a glorious rich yellow. The female is greenish on the back but is also a lovely bird. But for the gunner, his near and beautiful relative, the European Oriole would be making music in English groves. Whether the fruit-grower would welcome his presence is another matter. I never found them doing damage to our garden fruit. They are strictly arboreal. Length about 9.5 inches, tail 3.6

To be Continued.

Nesting of Hoopoes.

Upúpa épops, Linn.

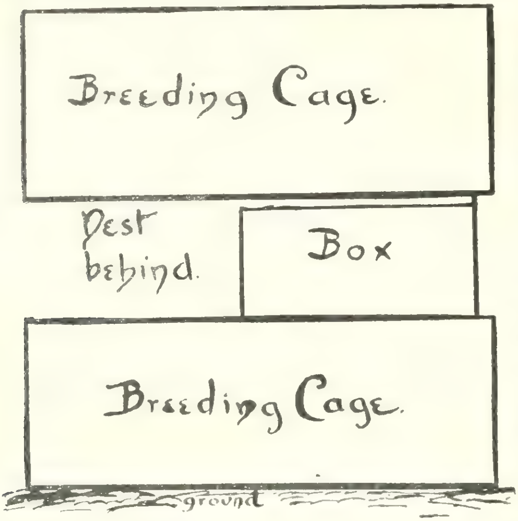
BY M. ARMSTEIN.

Continued from page 222.

Now the young are fully reared, I can offer the following additional particulars :—

The hen alone incubated, I never once saw her off the nest, she sat so close that I was under the impression that she must be dead in the nest and became so anxious that I put in my hand and was relieved to find she was all right—she is so tame that she did not come off, merely making a sort of "spitting" protest. I regret I cannot give exact period of incubation as she was sitting some days before I was aware of so interesting an occurrence.

The nesting place was quite a dark corner, behind a box, placed between two old breeding cages, behind this box



I noticed her going in and out and concluded she was looking for a nesting site, so I placed an ordinary flat chocolate box, into which I put a little chopped hay; she made no attempt to form a nest, but laid her eggs in the receptacle just as it was placed for her. The young now leave the box but, go back to it again; they have not come down to the ground yet. They are in grand feather, and almost equal to the old birds in colour; three of them now have beaks fully 1¼in. long, and they erect their crests well; the latter reminds you of the crest of the Rose-breasted Cockatoo, a double formation, V shaped.

I have just noticed that the old pair are now going through the quaint antics they indulged in before nesting commenced. The cock will take a mealworm and offer it to the hen, she opens her beak and he places it almost inside, but withdraws it again; this he will continue for five or six minutes, just as if it were to tease her: for this reason I am expecting them to go to nest again.

It will probably be of general interest if I state that my aviary is rather small and the number and mixture of its occupants will doubtless occasion some surprise. It contains:—

3 British Nightingales.
4 ,, Bullfinches (♀).
4 ,, Linnets.
3 ,, Chaffinches (♀).
4 ,, Goldfinches.
6 ,, Siskins.
3 ,, Greenfinches.

3 Waxwings.
1 Scarlet Tanager.
1 Golden Oriole.
1 Black-headed Siskin.
1 Pope Cardinal (♀).
1 Wood Warbler.
2 Bramblefinches (♂).

1 Pair Blue-winged Sugarbirds. 6 Siberian Goldfinches.
1 ,, Hawfinches.
1 ,, White-headed Tits (Continental).
1 pair Hoopoes and five young, also about one dozen small Foreign Seed-eaters.

I have had four clutches of Blue-winged Sugarbirds' eggs hatched out, but I am sorry to say in each instance they died after the third or fourth day, owing to being unable to get sufficient insect food. Having such a large number flying together in a limited space, it is most difficult to supply sufficient live food. To-day (July 28th) the first egg of their fifth clutch has been laid and I am hoping for better luck.

Book Notices and Reviews.

CANARIES, HYBRIDS, AND BRITISH BIRDS FOR CAGE AND AVIARY. Cassell and Co., in monthly parts, 7d. net.

Part XVIII: This, the concluding part of a most comprehensive and practical work contains a coloured frontispiece of Green Canaries, figuring Yellow and Buff Yorkshire Greens, and Yellow Norwich Green. The chapter on the "Family *Fringillidæ*" is completed and there are others on "Starlings, Crows, Larks, Woodpeckers, etc." and "The Diseases of Birds." Title page, table of contents, and comprehensive indices are included. We cordially commend this work to all our readers who are interested in Canaries, Hybrids, and our indigenous species.

Editorial.

Being the holiday month, these notes will be very light this issue :—

Nesting Notes.

RED-NAPED LORIKEETS (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*): Miss Drummond reports one or more of this species in the nest log—this pair of birds came into her possession last year. This species has been but once previously bred in captivity, one young bird being reared at the Zoo in 1910.

GOULDIAN FINCHES (*Poephila gouldiæ*): Several of our members have met with success in breeding this species. The young bred by Dr. Scott, referred to in our last issue, are already coming into colour and there are certainly two of the Red-headed variety among the young—the male parent was a Red-headed and the female a Black-head. Mr. Nicalson's birds (first and second broods) are also fully reared and Mrs. E. Travis also reports a success with this species.

STANLEY PARRAKEETS (*Platycercus icterotis*): Mr. J. Smith again reports success in rearing two young birds of this species. Mr. Smith met with a similar success last season and we congratulate him on having a good breeding pair of this fine species.

GOLD-FRONTED GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*Chloropsis aurifrons*): We are pleased to learn that at the second attempt success seems almost assured with this fine species. In Dr. Amsler's absence, Mr. W. R. Temple is kindly keeping an eye on the birds and he informs us that the young bird is a fortnight old (August 16th), appears very vigorous and has every prospect of being fully reared. The hen bird seems to brood it constantly and to feed almost entirely with mealworms. Just on going to press we learn with much regret that the young bird died when sixteen days old. The writer saw the chick (in spirits), it was well developed, with the pens sufficiently burst to indicate olive-green as the colour of the nestling plumage.

GRASSFINCHES, ETC.: Mr. W. R. Temple informs us that in his aviaries the season has not proved a good one. Parrot Finches have done badly—only five young on the wing, while there have been quite thirty eggs with chicks dead in shell. Ruficauda Finches have done well and there are quite a number on the wing. There are also some Long-tailed Grassfinches, Jacarini Finches and Harlequin Quails fully reared.

FIRE-TAILED FINCHES (*Zonœginthus bellus*): Mr. Temple is the fortunate possessor of a true pair of this rare but well known species. In his aviary they build enormous nests but get no "forrader."

ZEBRA X LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCH HYBRIDS: Mr. Temple informs us that this cross has been bred, but with the parentage reversed, by, he thinks, a Miss Dewing. He bought two from the breeder in 1909, both are now dead one of which he had set up and still possesses.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA PARRAKEETS: We much regret that while the coloured plate figuring this species which appeared with our last issue, is a good representative portrait of the species, it does not do full justice to the rich hues of the original drawing. It is a most difficult species to reproduce, the, shall I say, transparent-opacity of the colour areas being most difficult to faithfully reproduce—the plate is perhaps most wanting in the rich yellow-green of the wing-coverts. At the same time it is a good characteristic portrait of the bird, but the depth of colouration is somewhat below that of the living bird. We greatly regret to learn that the young Queen Alexandra was killed in the nest when a fortnight old. Mr. Astley however informs us that another hen is incubating a clutch of three eggs and we hope complete success this time may compensate him for the previous disappointment.

ORANGE-HEADED GROUND THRUSHES (*Geocichla citrina*): Mr. Astley has one young bird of this species on the wing in his aviaries. This is the first time they have been bred in England.

CUBAN COLINS: Mr. Astley also has two young of this species, which closely resemble the American "Bobwhite," fully reared—we think this also is a first record for this country.

LONDON ZOO: To end of July the principle results are as follows:

Red-rump Parrakeets (*Psephotus hæmatonotus*).
Cockateels (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*).
Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).
Red-winged Starlings (*Agelæus phœnicus*).
Grey-winged Ouzels (*Merula boulboul*).
Cariama (*Cariama cristata*).
Hybrid American Robin (*Turdus migratorius* x *T. albiventris*).
Venezuelan Ground Doves (*Geotrygon venezuelensis*).
Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).
Brush Bronze-wing Pigeon (*Phaps elegans*).
Hybrid Turtle Dove (*Turtur semitorquatus* x *T. communis*).
Senegal Turtle Dove (*Turtur senegalensis*).
Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*).
Summer Ducks *Lampronessa sponsa*).
Chilian Teal (*Nettium flavirostris*).
Variegated Sheldrakes (*Tadorna variegata*).
Australian Wild Duck (*Anas superciliosa*).
Chestnut-breasted Teal (*Nettium castaneum*).
Red-crested Pochards (*Netta rufina*).
Muscovy Ducks (*Cairina moschata*).
Dusky Duck (*Anas obscura*).
Yellow-billed Duck (*Anas undulata*).
Bankiva Jungle-fowl (*Gallus bankiva*).
Fork-tailed Jungle-fowl (*G. varius*).

Peacock Pheasant (*Polyplectron chinquis*).
Japanese Pheasant (*Phasianus versicolor*).
Gold Pheasant (*Thaumalea picta*).
Amherst Pheasant (*T. amherstiæ*).
North American Turkeys (*Meleagris americana*).
Hybrid Peafowl (*Pavo nigripennis* x *P. spicifer*).
Hybrid Peafowl (*P. nigripennis* x *P. muticus*).
Horned Tragopans (*Ceriornis satyra*).
Greater Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*).
Hybrid Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus* x *L. argentatus*).
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

The following have hatched out young, which have not been fully reared:

White Stork (*Ciconia alba*).

SUCCESSES AND FAILURES (July and August): Mr. H. W. Mathias kindly sends me the following tables:

SUCCESSES.

Parrot Finches—One pair nesting.
Cuban Finches—Incubating.
Pileated Finches—Rearing young.
Painted Finches—Indications of nesting for third time.
Cordon Bleus—Rearing young.
Diamond Finches—Incubating.
Gouldian Finches—Nesting.
Diamond Doves—Two squabs almost ready to leave nest.
Budgerigars—21 young birds from second round, now fending for themselves in separate aviary. All five pairs again incubating.
Black-cheek Lovebirds—Again nesting.

FAILURES.

All young from second nest of Painted Finches dead.
All young from first nest of Pileated Finches dead.
One young Olive Finch dead.
One young Ruficauda Finch dead.
All but one of the above drowned in heavy rain following thunderstorm.
One adult Parrot Finch (♂) found dead in flight, cause unknown.
Olive Finches deserted their nest, probably due to thunderstorm.

A large number of birds have not nested, probably due to the extreme *dry* heat.

Mr. Mathias has had a fairly successful season—all aviculturists know only too well that it is no use even hoping for each pair to nest, unless numbers are few, and even in such instances full success is seldom obtained with each pair, and Mr. M. has fared better than many.

By the way, Mr. Mathias is also a specialist grower of Border, Malmaison, and American Tree Carnations, and Hon. Sec. of the Perpetual Flowering Carnation Society; also a most successful exhibitor of Border Carnations, and those interested in these most delightful flowers would do well to send for his autumn catalogue. Birds and flowers form a charming dual hobby.

Red-naped Lorikeets: Just on going to press, we much regret to learn that the nestling referred to on page 259, were found dead in nest when about a month old. We sympathize with Miss Drummond, in her keen disappointment, and hope that complete success may attend the birds' next attempt.

Correspondence.

INCUBATION PERIOD (QUAILS).

Sir,—In some notes I sent you re the nesting of the White-cheeked Crested Quail (*Eupsychartyx leucopogon*) I said that the period of incubation was nearly, if not quite, four weeks, but that I should be glad to have further correspondence, because I did not think it had been suggested that the incubation period in the case of Quails was as a rule longer than 21 days. I have just received an interesting letter from our member Mr. W. Shore Bailey, in which he tells me that a pair of this species in his aviary this summer hatched in 26 days.

W. E. TESCHEMAKER.

AVICULTURAL PUZZLES.

Sir,—There are some things (avicultural) rather difficult to give a reason for, as you know my aviaries are roomy and natural, yet breeding results are almost nil, and this is where the puzzle comes in. As stated, two of the aviaries are roomy and natural (see photo of one of them in Vol. I., N.S., Dec. issue), birds are true pairs, and to all appearance as fit and vigorous as possible, yet they do not breed! They get a good variety of seeds, soft food, and capture many small flies, etc., on the wing. I will quote an instance: though disturbed during incubation by Yellow-rumped and Magpie Mannikins, the St. Helena Waxbills successfully hatched three out of four eggs on August 20, but the young only lived two days; this is the second brood they have lost and their fourth nest, yet in a smaller aviary another pair reared a fine brood last year. I have reared a brood of Avadavats this season, and another clutch of eggs are being incubated, but it would appear these are to be my only successes save for one young Cutthroat, and the season will have proved a most disappointing one. Owing to being much occupied I was unable to provide live ants' "eggs" for the St. Helenas as I did for those I reared last year. Are these a *sine qua non* in rearing St. Helena or other Waxbills? It would be interesting to know others' experience and luck in the way of rearing Waxbills and the "Small Ornamental Finches," and I trust there will be some correspondence on these topics.

Leadenham, August 22, 1911. J. SHERARD REEVE.

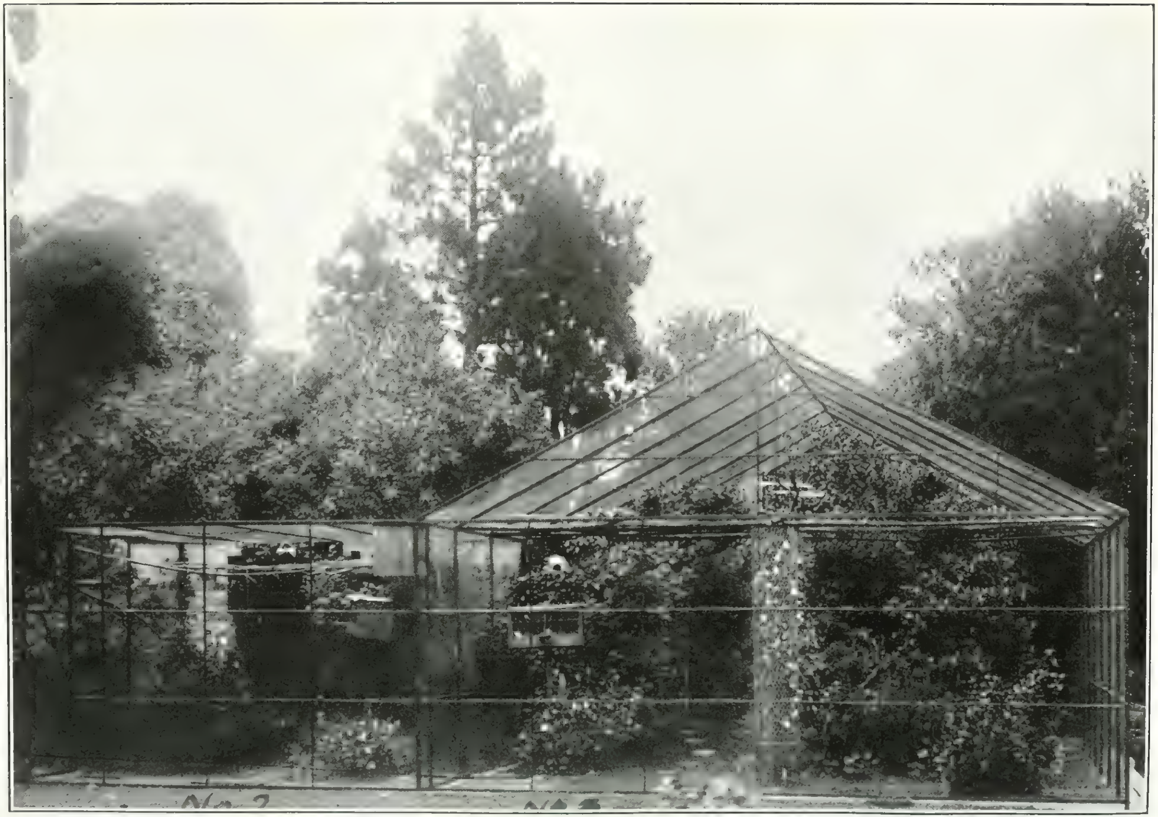
[I have seen Captain Reeve's aviaries, which are roomy and natural and his birds were all in excellent condition. A description of his aviaries and birds, with photos and plan will appear in October *Bird Notes*. I refrain from entering further into the matter, save to urge members to give their experiences and discuss the topics raised above. The subject is a practical one, of general interest, and it should prove both interesting and profitable.—ED]

Late News.

SUCCESSFUL BREEDING OF THE NIGHTINGALE IN CAPTIVITY. We have gleaned the following details and hope our new member will supplement these, with a detailed account of his most interesting success. At the moment of going to press we cannot call to mind a previous record, in such case Mr. E. A. Mallett will be entitled to the Club's medal. If any member knows of a previous record will they kindly supply details?

As near as possible the birds were provided with a natural nesting site and surroundings—last season a clutch of eggs was laid, but did not hatch out.

This season five young birds were hatched, which left the nest on June 10, one died on June 27, the remaining four are still living, have moulted out and are in exhibition condition. We refrain from giving further details, as we hope to have an article from Mr. Mallet's pen in a near issue.



No. 2. No. 3. *Photo by J. Evans*

Captain Reeve's Aviaries.

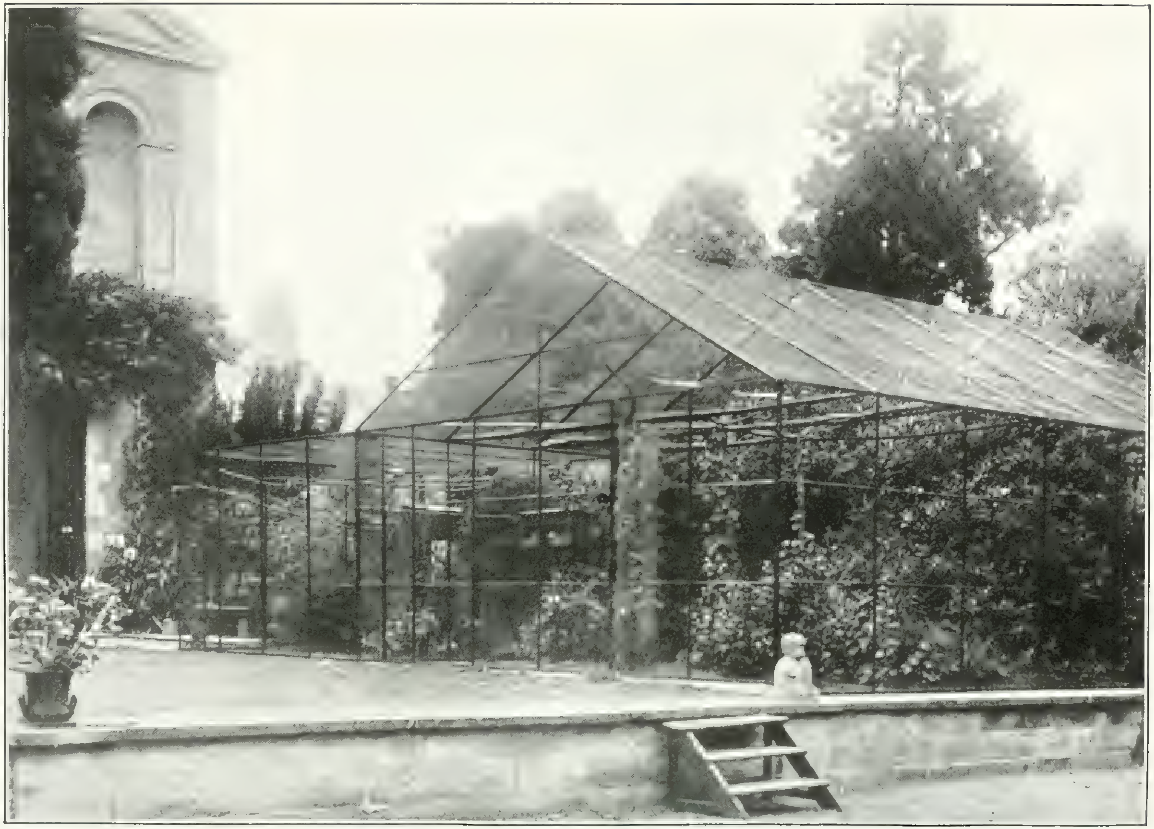


Photo by J. Evans

Captain Reeve's Aviaries.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

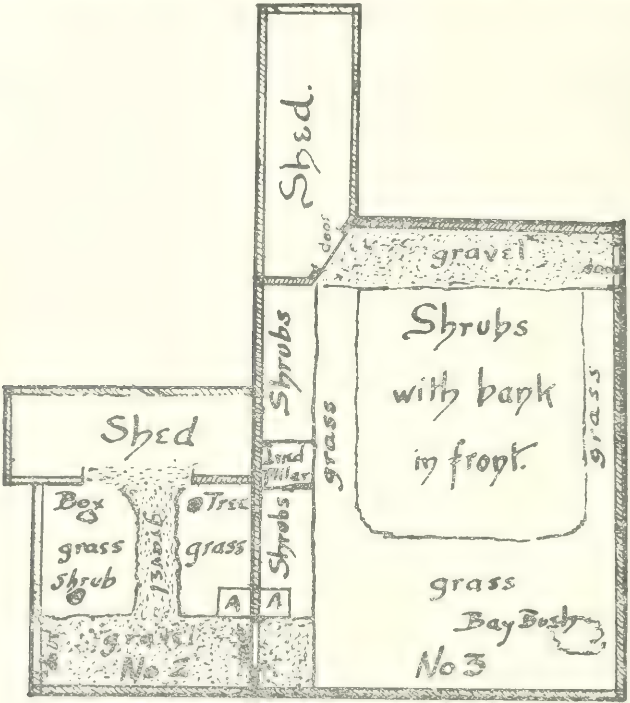
JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Visits to Members' Aviaries.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

CAPT. REEVE'S AVIARIES: In July last I enjoyed a short visit to Leadenham House, and the hospitality of Capt. and Mrs. Reeve, as well as avicultural yarning galore. My ramble over part of the estate or visits to the Partridge and Pheasant Coops, or waterfowl, I do not purpose dwelling upon, but merely to describe No. 3 aviary, photo and description of aviaries 1 and 2 appeared in "B.N.,, December issue, 1910, so that it will only be necessary to refer to their occupants. With the photo-reproductions and ground plan which accompany these notes, but little description will be necessary, as a glance at the plates will indicate their handsome appearance and the natural accommodation provided for the birds, yet in spite of dense natural cover and roomy quarters, the breeding results have been few indeed, constituting quite an avicultural puzzle, for which I certainly am unable to suggest any reason, save, perhaps, the abnormal *dry* heat and the "cussedness" of birdy temperament.

NO. 3 AVIARY: This aviary, which was completed and ready for occupancy in May last, is roomy and natural. The trees and plants were mostly on the spot and supply ample and dense natural cover, the bulk of the ground area is covered with grass, which is periodically mown; there is a small bank with shrubs on top and is a tangle of varied herbage. A cement bath with a wire division serves both aviaries (Nos. 2 and 3, see plan). The arrangement for preventing husks being scattered about and for holding the seed vessels is quite ingenious and Capt. Reeve's design. It consists really of a sort of box cage, the front of which is in three parts, which can all be turned back or down out of the way, leaving the front entirely open. The seed pans are placed inside—when the side flaps (or doors) are fixed up, the central flap forms a drop door and with the aid of a piece of string worked from the outside, any bird or birds can be easily captured. This box-food-cage is fixed in a post about four feet high and has a turntable sort of arrangement, by which it can be turned to any position, so that wind cannot blow its contents about and it certainly answered its purposes excellently. The shed is solidly built of stone, with a concrete floor; the foundation of flight is also concrete and extends two feet below ground level for the purpose of keeping out rodents. The flight framing is of angle iron, covered with three eighths mesh netting, and coated with black varnish. The general design is neat and plain, yet the whole is very effective, and though on the terrace, in close proximity to the house, the


Shed
door
gravel
door
Shrubs
Shrubs with bank in front.
grass
grass
Shed
Bird Pillar
Box
grass
Shrub
Gravel
Tree
grass
Shrubs
A
A
gravel
No 2
grass
Bay Bush
No 3

A.A. Cement Bath, serving both Aviaries.
GROUND PLAN. Scale $\frac{1}{8}$ in. = one foot.

aviaries, far from being an eyesore, are an ornamental feature of the terrace lawn.

Its Occupants: This aviary contains the following pairs:

Yellow-rumped Finches.
Chinese Painted Quails.
Three-coloured Mannikins (? pair).
Cape Canaries.
Zebra Doves.
Avadavats (2 pairs).
Grey Singing Finches.
St. Helena Waxbills.
Paradise Whydahs.

Also the following odd birds: Hooded Siskin (♂), Gouldian Finch (♀), Green Avadavat, Canary (♀), and Pelzeln's Saffron Finch (♂), Cuba Finches (♂♂).

The above were in most excellent condition, finer plumaged birds of their kind I have never seen, their vigorous health was unmistakable, the very abandon with which they disported about the aviary, the fervour of their song, display and general demeanour were all in accord with the spirit of "the gladsomeness of life" in no mean measure—the song of the Cape Canaries was a treat to listen to—the whole forming a source of ever-changing interest and pleasure, for in such aviaries the life history of birds is unfolded before one—from the egg to the mature bird. From January to December the narrative runs, and then commences again—shedding and donning of plumage, courtship with its fervid love songs and dances, house building, eggs, incubation, feeding of young, bringing out the brood, all these episodes, with the ever-changing demeanour of the birds, supply a source of interest and pleasure which never flags and is never forgotten.

As already remarked breeding results have been small indeed. Though most of the pairs have nested, the result has been either infertile eggs, chicks dead in shell, or young not reared to maturity; yet food, accommodation, and vigour have apparently been all that could be desired. I am of the opinion that there will be a very different record from this aviary next season. Capt. Reeve has not been alone in his disappointing experience. The extreme *dry* heat, has evidently not suited many species, and though there have been some notable successes this season, failures have been far more numerous.

No. 2 Aviary: No description is called for, as this aviary was described in this journal last December. Here again there has been but little success. Four Avadavats have been successfully reared, the cocks of which are just coming into colour—these four young birds are certainly the finest I have seen, though not yet in adult plumage, they are very tight and silken, and also strong and vigorous. Though smaller, as photos indicate, the general arrangement corresponds with that of No. 3. It contains the following pairs and odd birds.

St. Helena Waxbill (♂).
Indian Silverbills.
Cordon Bleus.
Zebra Waxbills.
Orange-cheek Waxbills.
Cape Canaries.
Avadavats (2 pairs).
Ruficauda Finches.
Spice Finches.

No. 1 Aviary: This is really a room of the house, with the window space filled in with a wire framing, but a wire flight is now being fixed outside, for the better accommodation of its occupants. These consist of Lovebirds, Budgerigars, Cardinals, various Weavers, including the rare Redheaded (*Q. erythrocephalus*), and others. This aviary should give good results another season, now it has an outer flight, as the sheltered portion gives excellent nesting accommodation, especially for Parrakeets, and being very lofty supplies excellent night quarters for such species.

Those who have read Capt. Reeve's letter in our last issue, will share with him the wonder (as I did after seeing), after reading the above description, that breeding results have not been better—as it is one can only put it down to one of the inexplicable vagaries of aviary life perversity.

In next issue I purpose describing the aviaries and birds of Mr. W. R. Temple, Dr. M. Amsler, Mr. L. G. Choizza Money.

To be Continued.

Nesting of the Dickcissel (Black-throated Bunting)

(*Spiza americana*).

By W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

An Editorial note appended to the description of this species in my edition of Wilson's "American Ornithology," runs as follows:

> "America has no birds perfectly typical with the *Emberizae* of Europe; the group appears to assume two forms, under modifi-

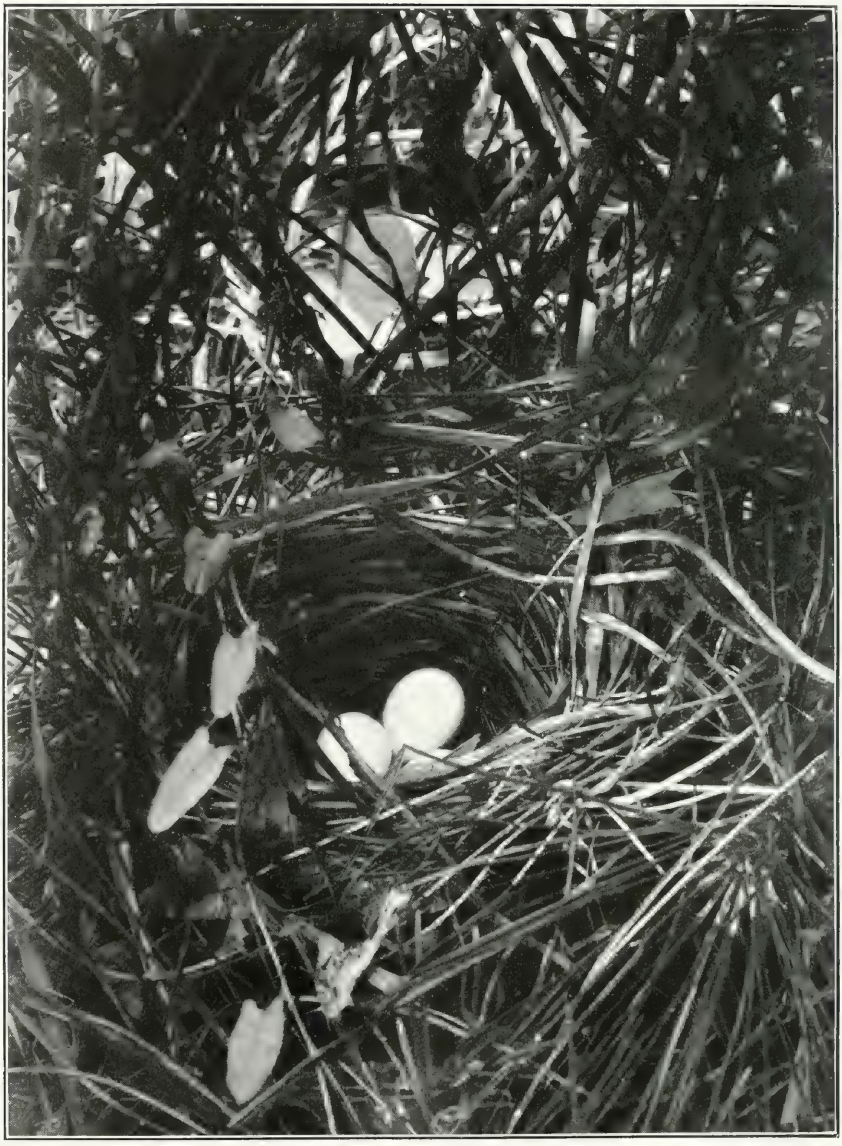


Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

Dickeissel's Nest and Eggs.

cations, that of *E. miliaria* with the bill of considerable strength and that of the weaker make of *E. schoeniculus.* To the former will be allied our present species, under the latter will rank the small *F. socialis, melodia* and *palustris*; the form is further represented in North America by *Plectrophanes* and *Pipilo* and may be said to run into the Finches by means of the latter and *Zonotrichia.* The principal variations are the want or smallness of the palatial knob and the wideness of the upper mandible, which exceeds that of the lower, while the reverse is the case in the true birds" (? Buntings).

The Dickcissel, or Black-throated Bunting, is an abundant species, and has a fairly extensive range. In winter it almost reaches the Equator in Colombia, and is also found in Central America; it winters also in Mexico and Arizona. As a breeding species it ranges over a large area of Eastern North America, especially the States of New York and Pennsylvania, northward to Lake Superior. For its northern limit I may quote the "Ornithologist and Oologist"—a Magazine which, though chiefly contributed to by the destructive "collector," contains a good deal of the only kind of information which is really worth having with respect to birds, namely, first-hand observation.

"St. Louis, Minnesota. On April 21st: first saw a party of singing males. April 29th: in small flocks which dispersed during the morning hours of warm days, re-entering old stands. May 1st: the bulk of the species has arrived and they are now very conspicuous in the morning, singing or flying singly or in pairs, calling. Manhattan, Kansas, April 26th: first. April 29th: full summer numbers. Polo, Illinois, May 3rd: first. Pine Bend, Minnesota: occurs here to my certain knowledge. The above is the most northerly record for Minnesota but it is also recorded from the same latitude at Huron, Dakota."

From another reference in the same Magazine we may infer that its range is extending: —

"Franklin, Indiana. Not recognised in this country until a few years since. Dr. Haymond had not seen it in 1869. Now its rattling note may be heard from almost every field of our upland farms.

"*In the eastern States it seems to be somewhat local, for another correspondent of the same magazine notes that in Warwick County, Virginia, it is* "rather uncommon; a few noted in the open fields, retreating to the thicket at the first approach of alarm."

In appearance the Dickcissel is a handsome bird. Fully as large as a Yellowhammer, its breast and underparts are a bright orange-yellow; crown and nape ash-grey; back a warm brown, boldly striated with black; wing-coverts chestnut; underside of flexure of wing yellow; superciliary stripe yellow; the centre of throat covered by a heart-shaped area of deep black which sometimes extends down over the breast; beak bluish. Females are of two types, one having the throat unmarked and the other having a few dark feathers in the centre. Wilson states that the female does not possess the yellow stripe over the eye; as far as I can judge from the two specimens I have possessed, this is incorrect.

In its habits this species closely resembles the Cirl Bunting, especially in its habit of perching on the top of a hedge or the lower bough of a tree, repeating for an hour at a time its monotonous and unmelodious song, which may be rendered "chip-chee: chip-chip-chee." Like the Cirl Bunting, too, it is a very shy bird, taking cover as soon as anyone approaches.

A few individuals have been imported from time to time but it has always been a rare bird in the market. Mr. Thorpe imported two males some years since and, if I remember rightly, sent me one that died for identification. Mr. Cross, of Liverpool, imported eight a year later and it was from him that I obtained the only two females that I have seen. I know that others have been sold as females and may have been of this sex, but one of the many aviculturists who come to have a look at my birds and who was convinced that he possessed a true pair, after seeing my breeding hen, had no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that his birds were two males. Dr. Russ seems to have been acquainted with this species, which he called the "Black-breasted Bunting," ("Der schwarzbrustige Ammer"): he tells us that in Germany also females are very rarely imported and that for that reason it has not been bred there.

I had a pair of Dickcissels in an outdoor aviary in 1910, but they did not breed and I lost the female in the autumn. This season I tried the same male and another female with better success. Try as one may to prevent it, it generally happens that several species will select some particular corner of an aviary and make frantic efforts to plant their own flag there and to dispossess other species who may have staked out a prior and much better claim. When therefore a pair of Rock Pipits began to carry nesting material into a division of this aviary last June it was strictly according to precedent that a pair of Red-headed Buntings should commence a nest close to them and that, before they had quite completed the latter, a pair of Corn Buntings should furiously attack and try to drive off the first comers. I was appointed arbitrator in the dispute and I settled it it in this way. The Red-heads' nest was almost finished; the Corn Buntings' nest was only just commenced and the Pipits' nest I could find no trace of; so I gave it as my award that the Red-heads should have priority and, to make quite sure that my award was duly observed, I shut them in and shut the others out. Of course there was the usual grumbling, and as a matter of fact my decision proved to be both unjust and misconceived for, about a week later I found the Pipits' nest in a most unlikely situation—in a nest-box, quite 10 feet from the ground—and containing a clutch of eggs. It only remained for me to apologise and to say that I was exceedingly sorry for my carelessness, which, I may add, was the literal truth! I turned in the Dickcissels with the Red-heads on the off-chance that I might pull off a double event, and it was quite in accordance with the contrariness of birds that although the Red-heads now had an undisturbed territory and an unmolested nest, they dawdled about for the rest of the summer and did nothing further, whereas the Dickcissels at once set to work and commenced house-keeping.

It was on the 25th of June that I first missed the hen Dickcissel and assumed that incubation had commenced, but I had not succeeded in exactly locating the nest. It was evidently somewhere in the thick growth under an Austrian Pine, but they were so vastly mysterious about their operations that I did not bother much about it: I always notice that when people are very mysterious and consequential about anything it generally proves, when they subsequently condescend as a great favour to take one into their confidence, to be something absolutely and ridiculously unimportant. So, although I had a look for the nest, I did not waste much time about it because I thought it quite likely that there was no nest at all. However, as it proved, there was a nest, and the reason I did not find it was that I looked for it on the ground (*see plate*). Dr. Butler, in his excellent work on "Foreign Birds for Cage and Aviary," quotes Gentry as saying that "the nest is almost always on the ground," and Gentry is supported by Wilson, who states that these Buntings "prefer level fields covered with rye-grass, timothy, or clover, where they build their nest, fixing it *in* (*sic*) the ground and forming it of fine dried grass." I do not think, however, that Wilson knew very much about this species; he prefaces his remarks by the announcement "Of this bird I have but little to say," and as we have noted, he was not correct in his description of the female. Of course the sites chosen for nesting would vary with the physical characteristics of the district where the nest was located, but it is noteworthy that a correspondent of "O. & O." speaking from actual observation in Texas, says: "they prefer the lower and damper parts and build in the highest limb or top of an evergreen bush that is found in the low spots of the region," and both the nests that I have seen were certainly well off the ground, and in one case as much as 4ft. from it.

The male took no part in incubation and he did not feed the female; he devoted himself entirely to his musical studies. Under date 3rd July, I have the following note: "Spizas apparently feeding; if so, my date for incubation wrong.." On the 9th, I saw the male removing fœces and this was the first time that I saw him take any interest in the nest; after this date he fed the young occasionally.

On the 12th, two young Spizas flew; they were brown on the crown and back, the upper back having some well-defined striations; breast pale buffish; superciliary streak buff. They flew well. They soon commenced a partial moult, their backs becoming more ash-coloured and about the 21st July they developed dark moustachial streaks, sweeping backwards from the angle of the lower mandible—a singular marking, which has no counterpart in the adult plumage (the adults have a spot of yellow at the angle of the beak). The cheeks of the young were light brown and they had a few

Nest of Guira Cuckoo.
The hen bird is sitting immediately above the nest.

faint striations of the same colour on the breast and flanks. In this phase of plumage they remained and, as they were exactly alike, it was impossible to sex them. Towards the end of August I parted with the adults and one youngster to one of our members and I retained the other. Past experience with Buntings bred in the aviary has taught me that the period during which they are being gradually brought on to hard seed is a critical one, and I was therefore careful not to let the young bird go until I was certain that it could be considered fully "weaned," but I had to learn one more lesson. I placed the remaining young bird in a large flight-cage by itself, with mealworms, and other luxuries. Result: It refused all food and pined away. Moral: Do not overlook the mentality of a young bird, but bear in mind that it probably feels the separation from its family as acutely as we, when small boys, felt being sent to our first school.

On the 23rd of July I found a second nest of the Dickcissels in an Euonymus. The four eggs were a very light blue without any markings. Size, ·85 inches x ·62 inches. They are much the size of Hedgesparrow's eggs, but by comparison with the latter, appear almost white. The above corresponds with the description furnished in modern works on American ornithology but Wilson says "white, sprinkled with specks and lines of black." I have already suggested that his acquaintance with this species seems not to have been very intimate.

P.S.—The nest shown in the photo was situated on a horizontal branch of an Austrian Pine, one foot from the ground, surrounded and well hidden by interlacing tendrils of bind-weed: it was of the characteristic Bunting type—large, somewhat flattened on the top, the foundation composed of small twigs and dead stems of bind-weed, the cup lined with fine grass.

Breeding of the Guira Cuckoo.

(*Guira piririgua*).

By Lord Poltimore.

Three Guira Cuckoos (as far as could be made out, one male and two females), were bought in May, last, from Mr. A. E. Jamrach, of London.

They were turned into an aviary about 14 yards square, already containing Violet Ravens, Yellow-billed Blue-Pies (*Urocissa flavirostris* Red-billed (Occipital) Blue-Pies (*U. occipitalis*), Wandering Tree Pies (*Dendrocitta rufa*), Peruvian Jays (*Xanthura*), Blue-throated Jays, Long-tailed Glossy Starlings (*Lamprotornis caudatus*), White-crested Laughing Thrushes (*Garrulax leucolophus*), White-throated Laughing Thrushes (*G. albigularis*), and Himalayan Blue Thrushes (*Myophoneus temmincki*).

The Cuckoos showed signs of building about the beginning of August, The nest was placed in the centre of a small fir tree and was constructed of twigs, leaves, etc.

The hen laid somewhere about the 10th of August, but the exact date is not known, as she was very shy, and did not like anyone approaching the nest, she laid two eggs, all three birds seemed to take an interest in the nest, and all took part in driving off any other birds that approached it, chattering loudly every time anyone stopped or appeared to take an interest in their proceedings.

As far as could be ascertained only the hen incubated, the cock and the other hen mounting guard.

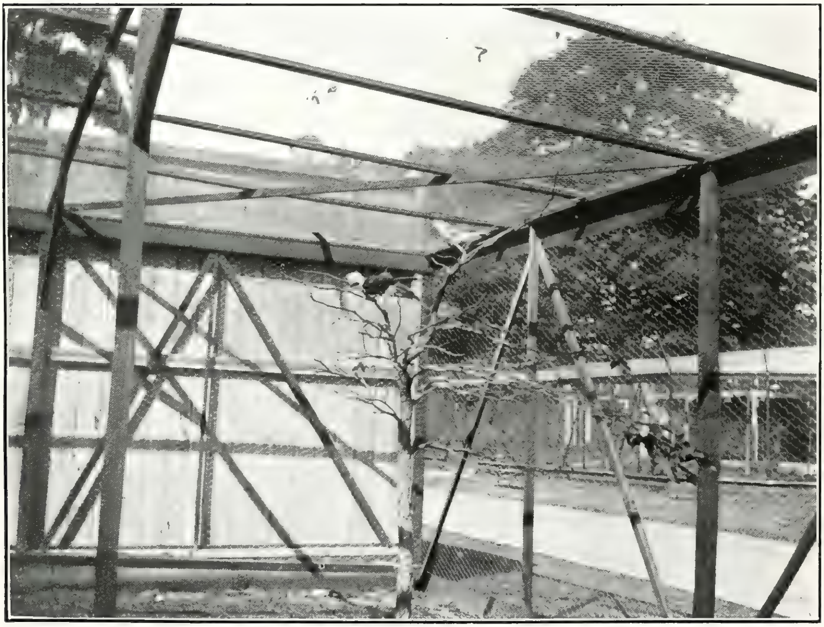
She always slipped off the nest if anyone stopped and looked or took any interest in the aviary, so strict orders were given that she should be left as quiet as possible.

As far as can be ascertained, the eggs were hatched on or about August 25th. The young birds grew at a marvellous rate, and were most carefully tended by the two old birds, the third bird still helping to keep intruders, in the shape of other birds, from coming too near.

About a fortnight after they were hatched, the young birds showed themselves on the edge of the nest. They feathered most astonishingly quickly, but it was noticed from the first that one bird always kept well ahead of the other, and this was more pronounced when they left the nest.

When about three weeks old the smaller young bird disappeared in a most unaccountable way. It was noticed that the parents did not attend to it, or seem to care for it as much as they did for the larger bird. The latter is now

Young Guira Cuckoo clinging to aviary netting.



Parents and Young Guira Cuckoo on tree, with White-crested Laughing Thrush in centre.

fairly on the wing, and one has to look twice to distinguish it from the adults.

The food given consisted of insectivorous food, raw meat cut small, and mealworms.

Nesting of the Rufous-throated Blue Sugar Bird.

(*Glossoptila ruficollis*).

By Miss E. F. Chawner.

Our esteemed Editor has asked me to send an account of the nesting of my pair of Rufous-throated Blue Sugar Birds, but I regret to say that the nesting resulted in failure and is, I fear, scarcely worth recording. I bought the birds last February from our esteemed member Mr. Sutcliffe. They were acclimatised and in excellent condition though Mr. Sutcliffe warned me that the cock bird had been wheezing. I placed them in a garden aviary, having an inner heated compartment in which they spent most of the cold weather. I feed them on sweetened milk sop, ripe bananas, oranges, grapes, and other fruit in season, and I have lately seen the hen pick up and eat mealworms. She also swallowed a good deal of maw seed at first, but since the hot weather set in she appears to have given it up. I have never known the cock to take any insect or seed. They will not look at ants' "eggs" or cockroaches. They are much together, but while the hen "skulks" among heather or spruce boughs, so that she is practically invisible, the cock shows himself boldly and sings rather prettily at times.

They began to look about for a nesting site during the second week in June, and by the 24th, had built a nest cup-shaped, of heather, cotton wool, and grass, lined with hair (much like a Hedge Sparrows in size and shape), in the corner of a Hartz-cage, fastened high up in the covered part of the aviary. The cock continually accompanied the hen in her search for material and mounted guard while she was building, but I do not think he actually carried anything or worked at the nest. When it was finished, they appeared discontented with it, and finally moved it to an old wicker cuff also high up in the same part of the aviary, but where they could be more private. Then the hen began to sit, July 5th, but was not at all steady, leaving her nest as soon as she heard the aviary door unfastened. I was afraid to look at the eggs, much as I longed to see them and to ascertain their number.

When I thought nestlings were due I caught all the flies and aphides I could by dint of "sweeping," and turned them into the aviary. I also provided very small mealworms and living ants' "eggs," and abundance of ripe fruit, hoping that some of these might suit. On July 18 I was grieved to find a newly hatched nestling thrown out and quite dead. I thought that the mother made some attempt to catch insects and carry them to the nest, but next day I found another nestling thrown out, and the parents had evidently forsaken the nest. When I examined it I found it quite empty I hunted for egg shells but could not find a trace of them so I do not know anything of their colour or markings. Probably the Gouldian Finches, who are always very keen on egg shell, had eaten them.

At first the birds seemed inclined to go to nest again, but the hen soon tired of it and took no notice of her mate's blandishments. This was a disappointment, I thought this tropical summer would have encouraged them to try again.

Before pairing the cock "displays," spreading his wings and tail, and puffing out his feathers. After pairing has been accomplished both birds utter shrill squeaks after the style of the English Robin.

Until the last fortnight the Sugar Birds lived peaceably with their neighbours, but now I have been obliged to cage the cock, as he turned out savage and took to making murderous onslaughts on the other cock birds in the aviary, though he never molested the hens. His method was to lie in wait in some bush where he was practically invisible, and suddenly to dart at any unsuspecting male who came within reach. He flies very swiftly, and turns cleverly and is proportionately difficult to evade. In this way he caught a cock Pintail Nonpareil just coming into colour and a Cuban Finch. As I do not wish the aviary tenanted exclusively by widows I caught the agressor, who takes his confinement philosophically as does also his wife. Next summer if all goes well I hope to manage them better.

An Aviary Meant for Waders.

By H. L. Sich.

Nearly the whole of last year I was building this aviary.

Never having kept these birds before, I thought mud, water, and sand were the chief items. I did not stock the aviary until this spring. In the meantime I received some very good advice from several members, which caused some alterations.

The aviary is 48 x 29 feet, and 6 feet 2 inches high, except over the pond, where it rises to 10 feet 6 inches at the ridge. The four corner posts and the three others which support the roof over the pond are made of 4 x 4 inch quartering, the two tie beams are 5 x 2 inches; all the other posts and rails are 4 x 2 inches. The top and bottom rails are fixed to the posts by a joggle mortise, the middle rails half way up are fixed with an ordinary mortise, cut in both post and rail, and nailed together. The roof rails are nailed flush with the posts and supported with iron or wooden brackets. It is boarded up all round 1¾ feet high, and the wire netting is let into the ground about 2 feet and bent outwards. In many places zinc is used instead. Owing to the slope of the land, part of the foundations are above ground and some below, they simply consist of bricks under every post which are six feet apart. The wire netting is stretched from the ground rail straight over the roof.

I do not think it is necessary to say any more about the construction. I procured the raw materials and made everything I could myself. The stretching of netting on the roof, and part of the ridge board, laying the drain pipes to feed the pond, and the digging out thereof, I had done for me, as it was impossible to do that alone. I cut down expenses as much as possible, so as to have a large aviary.

I did not accept the lowest tender, but, one from a local carpenter, which was more satisfactory, as he undertook the carting of the timber. The following is the cost of nearly everything, for the benefit of those who have time but a shallow pocket:—

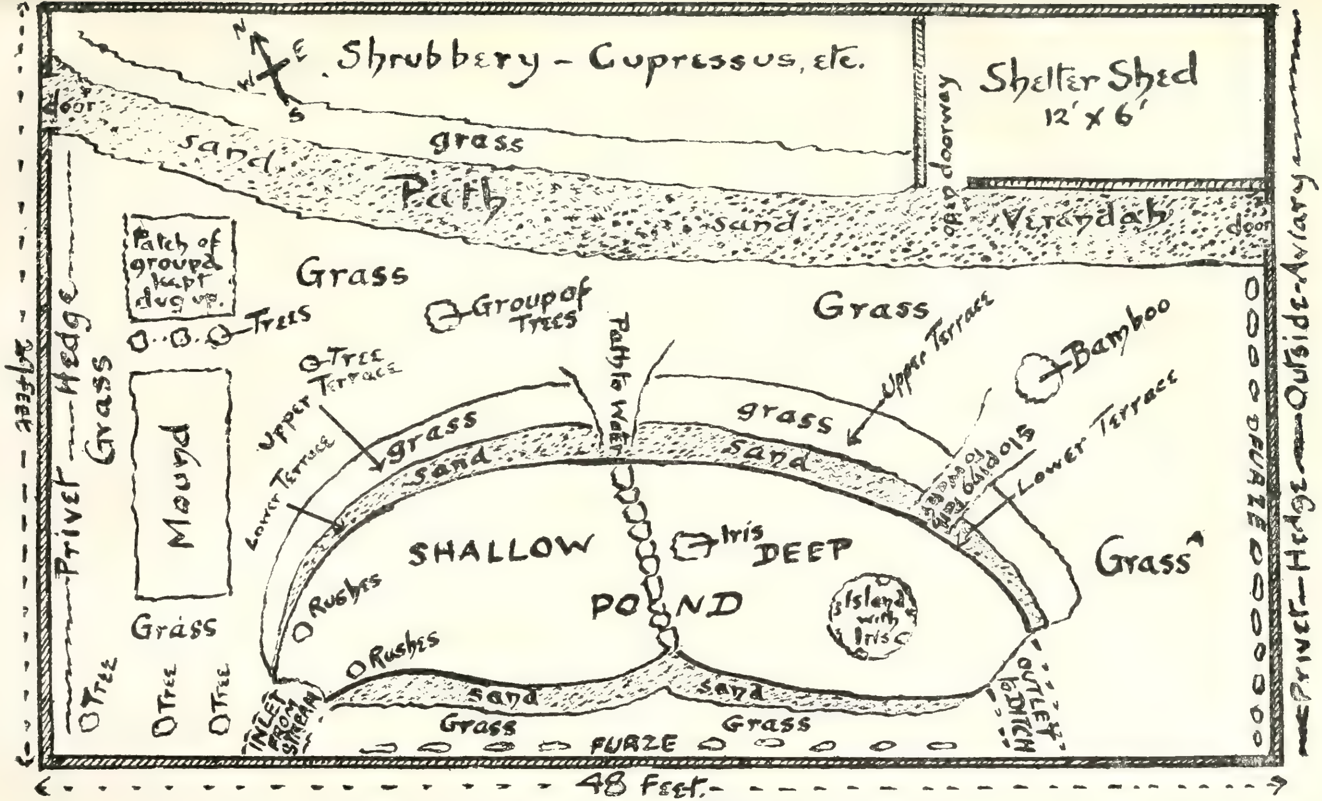
	£	s.	d
1077½ feet run of 4in. x 2in., 4in. x 4in., and 5in. x 2in	5	13	0
6 gallons wood preservative	0	9	0
12 drain pipes and elbows, cement, and man's time	0	18	4
Fixing roof netting, men's time and sundry materials ...	1	5	9
3 Tons sea sand	2	1	3
126 yards wire netting, ½-in. mesh x 6ft. wide x 20 gauge	7	0	10
2 rolls roofing felt, each 15 x 1 yards	0	13	0
	£18	1	2

The above does not include the excavation of ground for pond, this being done by the gardener and labourers.

The pond is dug out to a depth of three feet, so as to divert a little stream through it but the said stream dries up during periods of drought, and gave out on May 25th this year. There are two terraces; one half way down, covered with grass, and the other, level with the water at flood time and covered with sea sand; these terraces are connected with each other and the rest of the aviary by sloping paths. One half of the pond is lower than the other, so that there shall be water in one part under any conditions. I have made an arrangement, with old fire hose, a pump, and a brick drain, to keep some water in the pond. There is a path running through the aviary covered with sand, as is the shelter shed and a part (verandah), where the roof overlaps the shed, which is 12 x 6 feet.

The north side of the flight is protected by two rows of firs, cypress, etc. The east and west sides have privet hedges running along them. The south is rather unprotected, but there is a hedge running along part of its length; and small trees and bushes are dotted about in groups over the flight. Near the pond is a bamboo in which some years ago a pair of Yellow-rumped Munias nested twice in one year, but threw out the young on each occasion, when they were all but fully fledged. The aviary will look much better when it has lost its newness, and trees, bushes, and herbage have run wild.

THE INMATES; It contains two Curlews, one Oyster Catcher, three Green Plovers, two Knots, one Argoondah Quail, two Leiothrix, one Bengalese, and pairs of Avadavats, Grey,


Shrubbery - Cupressus, etc.
N
E
W
S
Shelter Shed
12' x 6'
door
sand
grass
Path
sand
open doorway
Verandah
door
Patch of ground kept dug up.
Grass
Trees
Group of Trees
Path to Water
Grass
Upper Terrace
Bamboo
Lower Terrace
Sloping Path to Water
Tree
Upper Terrace
Lower Terrace
grass
sand
grass
sand
Privet — Hedge
24 feet
Grass
Mound
Grass
SHALLOW
Rushes
Rushes
POND
Iris
DEEP
Island with Iris
Grass
Tree
Tree
Tree
INLET FROM STREAM
sand
sand
Grass
Grass
FURZE
OUTLET to DITCH
FURZE
Privet — Hedge — Outside Aviary
48 Feet.

GROUND PLAN.

St. Helena and Zebra Waxbills; Zebra Finches, and Cordon Bleus, which all seem very fit.

Nesting Accommodation: Besides straw hats, baskets, boxes, etc., there are the trees, bushes, and herbage, all supplying natural nesting sites, which many of the little Finches seem to prefer. I have had but little time for observation up to the present, so must leave the doings of the birds for a future article. The Knots like the tie beams to stand on. When the Waders were first put in they all started to dig their bills into the ground for worms, regardless of those who came to see the event, getting less tame as their hunger was appeased. At times they seem to take sudden fright, when I am inside without any apparent cause.

A Few Nesting Notes (July 29): The Zebra Waxbills have built a nest, but I have not dared to examine it yet. The Zebra Finches have sent their first two youngsters adrift to look after themselves, and are incubating their second clutch. The Avadavats hatched out about a week ago, I think there are three, but I have left them alone for the present. There are several nests in the trees but, they seem to change ownership very often. The Bengalese certainly built the nest in which the Avadavats now have their little family..

August 15th: Three young Avadavats have left the nest are now fending for themselves.

The Zebra Waxbills have young in the nest, apparently doing well.

Cordon Bleus are building, and the Bengalese have two eggs, but all the four Zebra Finches are trying to oust them.

There is one nest on the ground, among the grass, which, I believe, belongs to the Sydney Waxbills—time will show!

General: The birds (Waxbills, etc.) appear to like the heat very much—we have a plague of wasps here, which eat up the aviary fruit, but help to make provender for the Curlews, who are continually catching and eating them (Capt. Reeve informs us that his Shama has caught and eaten the wasps which enter his cage.—Ed).

August 28th: Three young Zebra Waxbills left the nest and they looked very strong and vigorous, but they have disappeared, I suspect the Oyster Catcher as I saw it picking over the remains of a dead St. Helena Waxbill, and the young Zebras were very fond of being on the ground. Zebra Finches are very prolific, their young are all over the aviary.

There are still several nests, and I hope some of them will "come off," though the season is now pretty far advanced.

Aviary Notes for 1911.

By Chas. H. Row.

The present season has apparently been, very nearly, an ideal one for Foreign Bird breeding, the fine and dry weather having saved us from many of our usual troubles.

Emboldened by the results of last year (when I succeeded in rearing five young Gouldian Finches), I put up four pairs of Gouldian Finches, two pairs of Masked Finches and one pair of Diamond Doves.

Although I have not the space and convenience of many aviculturists, I am the lucky possessor of three small outdoor aviaries. In the first of these I put two pairs of Black-headed Gouldian Finches and one pair of Masked Finches; the latter were the first to settle down, and carried enough hay, etc., into some pea sticks which I had placed in the corner of the outside flight to make a fair sized rook's nest; in this 4 eggs were laid, and in due course (as far as I can tell), two of which duly hatched out; this was altogether too much for the proud parent—I suppose she had never been a mother before; anyhow, she was so proud of those two mites, that she promptly carted them round to receive the congratulations of her neighbours, with the result that I removed their dead bodies the next morning from the seed box. However, this did not discourage her, and another story was quickly put on the top of the first nest, and five more eggs were laid. Once more hopes ran high; in due course young were again to be heard calling for food and one morning a very small youngster was found on the floor; it seemed fully feathered, but did not come up to my ideas as to the correct size, it was dead the next morning, it absolutely refused to stay in the nest although I tried my best to persuade it to do so. Two days later three more chicks appeared, including another small one which had no toes on one foot, and two very fine ones, the former died the next day, and one of the latter apparently thought it could knock holes in wire netting with its head and succumbed to brain trouble; the other one is alive and well while these notes are being penned.

Not satisfied with these results the old pair got to work again, and started a basement under their old home; they worked hard for two or three days and then seemed to lose interest in their work. On July 30th I noticed a small domed nest in some growing canary, and as I am troubled with mice I jumped to the conclusion that one had made a nest there, bending down I carefully surrounded that nest with my hands and picked it up, then carefully opening the top I felt for the mouse, and to my horror I felt "eggs," five of them, too! I put that nest down in a hurry, replaced it as well as I could and cleared off; upon returning about half-an-hour later I was pleased to see the Masked Finch fly off. That night it rained, and when I went to feed them the next morning, that nest was as flat as the proverbial pancake and soaked through; once more I made things as shipshape as possible, and to save future trouble rigged a large tarpaulin sheet over the flight and back went the hen; about August 21st, all the eggs were hatched. The entrance hole to this nest was originally on the ground, but on the 27th, the hen made a fresh one on top of the nest, and through this I could see five young birds, the old entrance was closed up and after a few days yet another entrance was made at the back of the nest, and until the young left the nest, both the entrances were used.

The young left the nest on September 6, and are apparently very vigorous and look likely to do well.

Meanwhile one pair of the Gouldians went to nest and on August 26th four young birds left the nest all looking very fit, the old pair built another nest, but their family seemed to think that this was for their special benefit and promptly used it as their bedroom. In consequence the old birds left it in disgust; they are now building a fresh nest in the covered-in portion of the aviary.

The other pair of Gouldians built a nest, and two eggs were laid: one of normal size the other the size of a small pea, I suppose the lady was disgusted with the latter, as she never made an attempt to incubate, and for some time made no attempt to nest again, the last few days however, I have noticed she has taken possession of a husk, so, perhaps, she is going to try again.

In the next aviary I have a pair of Diamond Doves who have built a nest but have not got so far as eggs; a pair of Bearded Tits which have made no attempt to nest, and a pair of Black-headed Gouldians, which have constructed a nest, but so far have not laid.

In the third aviary I have pairs of Passerine Doves, Red-headed Gouldian Finches, and Masked Finches. The Doves are a late importation and have not had time to properly settle down; the Masked Finches are I fear two hens. I should have said there *were* a pair of Gouldians, as unluckily a cat struck the hen off the wire five days after she had hatched, killing her, the widower, however, stuck to his work, and to my delight, reared the four motherless chicks, all of which left the nest on September 8th, apparently very fit and vigorous.

These are all my breeding results for this season, but I am quite satisfied. I wish more of our members would try their luck with Australian Finches, these seed-eating Finches are *not* much trouble to rear and a small outdoor aviary does not take up much room. All the food I give consists of white millet, canary, and spray millet, and soft food. The latter is a mixture of: "Cecto" and fine "Melox" in equal parts, slightly moistened.

I sow the outdoor flight in spring with canary seed and this gets well grown by the time the birds are turned out, and supplies them with all the green food they require during the season. As to time—I have about eighty birds and can manage to feed the lot in about half an hour.

I am in rather a happy position as to Australian birds, as I generally manage to get a few over two or three times a year privately, and have at present in addition to those already mentioned above, Parrot, Fire-tailed, and Rufous-tailed Finches; Orange-cheeked, Orange-breasted, St. Helena and Common Waxbills; Paradise, and Pin-tailed Whydahs, besides a few hybrids and Britishers.

I have just heard from a fancier to whom I sold some Masked Finches, that he has five young birds on the wing.

In conclusion I shall be glad to hear from anyone who is interested in Australian Finch breeding, with a view to exchange of birds and experience.

Since writing the above I find the hen Black-head Gouldian is sitting on six eggs (September 16th).

BRITISH BIRDS.

Breeding the Tree-Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) in confinement.

By W. R. Temple.

I had no intention of publishing an account of the *partial* success of breeding Tree-creepers: but the Editor, on seeing my notes upon the subject, asked me to do so. I trust these lines will prove of interest to some of the readers of *Bird Notes.*

In April last, at the suggestion of Mr. P. F. Galloway, of Caversham, I fitted up one of my smaller aviaries for the Creepers. The aviary is 10 feet long, 6 feet wide, and 8 feet high. It is built against an old brick wall covered with ivy, and 4 feet of one end is roofed in. The bottom of the roofed in part is covered with gravel, and the rest is grass, with a yew tree in the middle. I got several outside planks from big trees with the bark on, and placed these in the corners of the aviary, fixing the nesting sites on two of them. These were made of pieces of bark stripped from small trees, and nailed and pinned on to the tree trunks. The top was covered with a piece of bark and a hole cut in the side next the bark of the tree. Two of these sites were put up—one outside and the other under cover. They were about a foot long, and fixed upright to the bark. The nesting material provided for them to start upon was some small broken-up sticks about the thickness of matches and an inch to two inches long, some decayed wood, and a Long-tailed Tit's nest pulled to pieces, and stuck about on the bark of the trees. On April 29th I procured a pair of

Creepers from Mr. Galloway. They arrived in separate cages, and had never been together. The cock, Mr. Galloway had had for some months, the hen had lately been caught—in fact, she had started to nest in a wild state. On turning the pair into the aviary, the cock at once flew to the outside nesting site and called to the hen, trying to entice her to the spot. On the following day—April 30th, the hen was going in and out of the nesting site all day long. May 2nd I noticed the hen busy carrying nesting material to the nest, mostly small sticks and a few bits of moss. On May 3rd the hen was still carrying stuff to the nest. The cock was most excited. Whenever he saw the hen approaching, he flew to the entrance of the nest flapping his wings and calling. On the hen entering the nest he always followed, and both would spend some minutes together inside. I wonder if he assists to make the nest in any way? He never carried any materials to the nest.

May 4th, the nest seemed nearly finished, and I saw the hen was busy picking the felt off the inside of a small square of roofing felt, which was on the top of the wirework just above the nest—outside. I concluded that this was to line the nest, so got a lot of combings from a sheep-dog, pulled them into small pieces, and placed them between the piece of roofing-felt and the wire netting. The hen at once started to use them, and by the evening had used up every bit. May 6th the building had apparently been finished, and the pair were most of the time hovering round the entrance to the nest. May 7th, the hen took no notice of fresh combings, so I concluded that she had finished building. May 10th I noticed the cock was constantly feeding the hen on the trunk where the food trough is fixed. The cock spends most of his time near the nest hole, but the hen never seemed to go near the nest.

May 14th, removed the top of the nest-site and found a perfect nest had been made, and lined with the wool combings, but no eggs. May 18th, the birds seemed to be at a standstill, but whenever fresh food is given them (at 10-30, 2-30 and 6-30) the cock at once flies to the food trough, calls the hen, and feeds her. On May 19th again removed top of nest and found that two eggs had been laid. May 21st, four eggs in nest, and on May 23rd five eggs. On this date the hen began to sit. May 27th, the hen sat well for four days. She came off to feed several times a day. The cock always feeds her when they are at the food trough together, but have never seen him feed her on the nest, or ever enter the nest. May 28th, the hen was off the nest a great deal during the day, and both birds seemed very excited. On going to feed them at 2-30, I found a very fine fat mouse seated in the food trough. I spotted the hole into which he bolted and turned the garden hose into it for 10 minutes. I then got a log of wood about 3 feet long, drove a piece of thin iron hooping about 2 feet long into one end, and suspended it from the roof of the shelter. On this I fixed the food trough, and it was impossible for the mice to reach it. I then set three traps in the aviary. May 30, no mice caught, and the hen sitting steadily, only coming off the nest at short intervals to feed.

June 2nd, looked at the nest again, and found the five eggs still there. The eggs always seem to lie point downwards. In the afternoon I again saw a large mouse in the aviary. June 4th, the cock was flying about with half an egg-shell, which he eventually deposited in a corner of the aviary, and pushed through the wire netting. This proceeding seemed to greatly interest the Parrot-finches in the next aviary, who flew off with the egg shells in triumph. Feeling certain that they had hatched, I at once supplied them in addition to their ordinary food, with plenty of live ants' eggs, green caterpillars, small silkworms, and very small gentles. The old birds seemed to enjoy the whole menu except the gentles, which they never touched, but so far as I could see they did not attempt to feed the young. The young at this age no doubt do not require food. The temperature where the nest is, is just on 80 degrees.

June 5th, both old birds off the nest a great deal, they both fly to the nest, with food, but so far as I can see, it is always ants' eggs. June 6th, I again removed the top of the nest, and found four strong young birds gaping vigorously. The bright orange inside their beaks showed very plainly. I always looked into the nest when the hen was off feeding. She did not in the least object, and would sit on the trunk quite close while I had my peep at her family.

June 7th, both birds feeding well, and visions of that medal were constantly before me. June 8th, found one young bird dead, stuffed through the wire netting at the same spot the egg shells had been placed. Its crop seemed full, and it showed no sign of injury. June 9th, both old birds seemed very excited, constantly calling and flying to the entrance of the nest and back again. As they made no attempt to enter the nest, I again removed the top, only to find the other three young birds gone. Though I searched every inch of the aviary I never found any trace of them, but I *did* find three large mice in the ivy, and no doubt *they* knew what had become of the Tree-creepers. Thus ended my first attempt.

On June 12th, I removed both birds from the aviary, and placed them in one of my largest aviaries, 36 feet long, 24 feet wide and 12 feet high. This is well planted with shrubs, has an inner compartment, and a shelter shed, and I fitted up several tree trunks and nesting sites for them. They never attempted to nest again in this aviary, and evidently prefer the smaller one. If they both survive the winter (and I see no reason why they should not for they are very tame and hardy), I shall re-wire the old aviary with quarter-inch mesh wire, and try again—I hope with better success.

Odd Notes on British Birds.

BY MISS ALFREDA B. SMYTH.

Redpolls kept in a large open wire cage indoors, nested in a Hartz-travelling-cage. They made the nest of dried grass, and laid a clutch of 3 eggs. They were disturbed by the other birds and the eggs were broken. They went to nest again, and the hen had 2 eggs but did not incubate, so the eggs were put under a Canary but, unfortunately, were thrown out and broken.

The hen Redpoll went to nest a third time but was again disturbed, by the other birds. She dropped 2 eggs from the perch; shortly after she laid a soft one and died the same evening.

Chaffinches in same cage as the above; laid 2 eggs on the cage bottom, these were placed under a Canary, both hatched out but only one lived beyond the first day and died when 5 days old.

The Chaffinches went to nest again making their nest in a Hartz-box, filling it with dried grass. In this 2 eggs were laid and a third one on the cage bottom—all were broken soon after. They remade the nest and laid 2 more eggs, one was broken and as the hen did not sit, the other egg was put under a Canary, but proved infertile.

Linnet paired to a Canary: First clutch was infertile, the second clutch consisting of 3 eggs, 2 of which were infertile, one hatched out, the chick was fully reared; it is now a fine bird, a male.

Third clutch, 2 eggs, one hatched out, the bird is doing well and is now about 3 weeks old.

Bullfinches: Kept in one compartment of same cage as above, built a nest in a Hartz-travelling-cage, of dried grass and the contents of an ordinary Hyde's nest-bag, a clutch of 5 eggs was laid, 2 of which were put under a Canary. The hen Bullfinch sat on the 3 left and hatched out one bird, but did not feed it and the other two were infertile. The two eggs put under the Canary hatched out, also two of her own at the same time, but she did not prove a good feeder, and all the young ones died.

A pair each of Goldfinches and Siskins though continually feeding each other, never made any attempt to nest.

Editorial.

A Wasp Incubator: We are indebted to Mr. H. W. Mathias for the following amusing and instructive cutting:

A well known angler at Peterborough, having obtained a wasp's nest containing a large number of grubs, placed the nest in his kitchen oven in order to kill the grubs, so that he could use them for bait. The next morning he went for his grubs, but on opening the oven door a whole swarm of wasps flew out. The oven had not been hot enough to kill the grubs, but just warm enough to cause the emergence of the perfect insects. An exciting race ensued, which was won by the wasps." *Standard*, September 16, 1911.

PALM TANAGER: Lady Pennant has a young bird of this species on the wing, and all but independent of its parents. We trust full success will be attained. This species has not previously been bred in captivity, and we congratulate Lady Pennant on her success, which has only been achieved at the third attempt. Later: The young bird died before it was able to fend for itself.

RATS AND MICE IN AVIARY: Capt. J. S. Reeve states that his experience is, that the only way to exclude these pests is to have concrete foundations to aviary, extending eighteen inches below ground level, and to cover the flight with three eighths inch mesh netting. He considers this the only effective way and well worth the additional cost in the end. He has no mice in his aviaries.

GREENFOOD, BUDGERIGARS, CHINESE QUAIL, ETC.: From letters dated September 15th and 20th received from Mr. J. Ford, of Leicester, we make the following interesting extracts:

A CAUTION RE THE USE OF LETTUCE: "I have had a most unexpected disaster, which was caused by my own foolish neglect—I have long been aware that at certain stages the centre stem of lettuce is heavily charged with laudanum, and have always advised its removal and practised this myself, but this year, owing to lettuce being scarce I neglected this precaution, or rather took the risk. The result was the loss of four or more broods of four to six each within a few days of their being ready to leave the nest. Only the young birds were affected, the adults were unharmed. I at once ceased to supply the centre stem and the losses have ceased and results again normal."

We have been in the habit of supplying quite large lettuce, and have had the centre stems cleaned out by the birds, so that only a thin hollow tapering tube remained and there were no losses traceable to this cause either with Finches or Parrakeets, but with Budgerigars, at any rate it will be well for members to note the above warning. Note: Mr. Ford's remarks only refer to the centre stem as he is still using the leaf portion with excellent results.

BUDGERIGARS: "My results have been excellent, apart from the above mishaps with the second round. The first round of nests this season yielded about forty young birds, and except for the losses above referred to, later nests are proving equally prolific."

Chinese Painted Quail: "These deserted their first clutch of five eggs, but their second clutch of seven eggs was closely incubated and all duly hatched out, but on the second day two of the chicks were lying stretched out, apparently dead, on the ground—but I took them in my hands and breathed on them through my hands, and they gradually revived, I then took them indoors and placed them in wadding in a cardboard box, placing the cardboard box on a cup of boiling water and putting a piece of tin over the top of the box—in about two hours their call was quite strong, and I returned them to their mother. The next morning the weakest of the two was again stretched out cold and apparently dead, I again treated it in the same way and I have hopes of successfully rearing it—the other six are all with their parent and doing well. I had to remove the cock bird, as he attacked the chicks as soon as they commenced to run about. Incubation lasted eighteen days. The young chicks and their parent were intensely interesting. The minute size of the chicks, little larger than a plum stone, yet perfect in every way, with the markings of their downy plumage reminding me of tabby kittens—also the care of the brooding hen, the appearing and disappearing heads of minute chicks and the pretty cluck and attention of their anxious and careful parent was very interesting and also amusing."

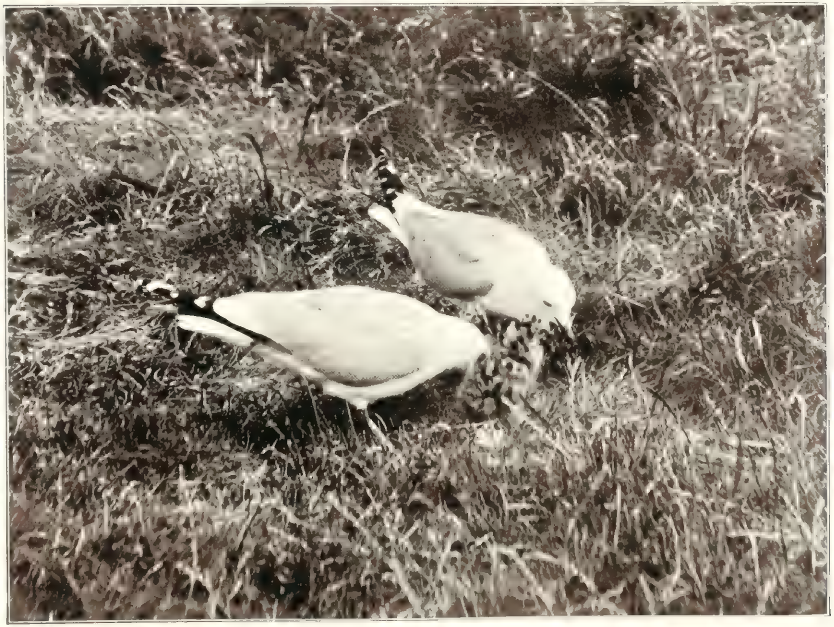
Several useful hints are contained in the above interesting notes.

Lovebirds: These are not by any means free breeding species, and the Madagascar but seldom reproduces its kind in captivity. In Dr. P. Gosse's aviary young have been successfully reared, the young birds leaving the nest on Sept. 8th.

Passerine Parrakeets: In the same aviary, some young birds of this species left the nest and by a strange coincidence also on September 8. We hope Dr. Gosse will send us such details as he is able as such will be of general interest.

Zoo Notes: The nesting results for August consist of 1 Blood-rumped Parrakeet, 2 Summer Ducks, 3 Brazilian Teal, 6 Australian Rails, 20 Hey's Partridges, 3 Budgerigars, 2 Somerat's Jungle Fowl, 2 Peacock Pheasants, and 3 Black-backed Porphyrios.

Among the more notable additions were: 2 Broad-tailed Babblers* (*Crateropus platycercus*) and 2 Brown-necked Parrakeets (*Pæocephalus fuscicollis*) presented by our



Feeding the Young (Four Days' Old).

From *The Life of the Common Gull*, told in Photographs.

(By courtesy of the Publishers.)

esteemed member Dr. E. Hopkinson, descriptions from his pen, will be found in the serial article "Birds of Gambia." Others were: 2 Regent Birds, 2 Purple-rumped Sunbirds (*A. zeylonica*), 4 Gila Woodpeckers* (*Melancerps uropygialis*), 1 Red-crested Turacou (*T. erythrolophus*), 4 Douglas' Quails* (*L. douglasi*), and 1 Lesser Superb Bird of Paradise (presented by E. J. Brook, F.Z.S.). **New to the collection.*

A YORKSHIRE AVIARY: In this aviary (September *Bird Notes*) Red-headed Finches (*A erythrocephalus*) and Indian Silverbills have young on the wing and several other species are incubating.

Book Notices and Reviews.

THE LIFE OF THE COMMON GULL TOLD IN PHOTOGRAPHS. By C. Rubow: London, Witherby and Co., 326, High Holborn. 1s. 6d. net.

This interesting and delightful brochure of bird-life will appeal to all bird-lovers. Its pictorial aspect practically conveys the life history of this interesting species; it is portrayed on twenty-five plates, exquisite photo-reproductions from life, as follows:

A pair of Common Gulls.
A Breeding Colony in a Young Plantation.
A Nest on the Shore.
A Nest Amongst Flowering Sea Plants.
Brooding in a Grass-field.
Sitting on a nest on the Shore.
Nesting Amongst Seakale.
Uneasy about the Camera.
A Young one a few hours old, and another breaking through the shell.
Young three days' old.
Young four days' old.
Feeding the Young (four days' old)—*see plate.*
Just Fed.
Feathered Young three weeks' old.
Following the Plough . . . .
On the Shores of an Island, where a Colony breeds.
On the Shore.
By the Sea.
A Fight for Food.
A Warm Summer's Day.
Ruffled and Untidy.
In Flight (two plates).
Wounded in the Foot.
Very Sleepy.

One of the above illustrates this brief review; all are equally descriptive of the episode they portray and are exquisitely reproduced.

The text is terse and clear descriptive of the story so beautifully told through the camera. We cordially commend this booklet to our readers.

Correspondence.

AVICULTURAL PUZZLES.

Sir, Since you invite correspondence on the question raised by Captain Reeve in the September issue of "B.N." I should like to suggest that perhaps the failures referred to are like many of mine due to mice.

Mice undoubtedly put the sitting birds off their eggs during the night, and even if the birds go on again when daylight comes, the eggs are cold—probably spoilt, and one gets the impression that they were infertile or "clear."

The death of young birds must also be frequently caused in the same way—more especially if the parents are driven off during the dark hours.

Personally I have had more mice this year than ever before, and if the drought has hindered bird breeding, it has certainly encouraged the multiplication of these pests by rendering their burrows more habitable than is usual during our wet summers.

With special reference to Waxbills I find that they are much less inclined to use a nest-box or husk than most other finches, and that they will mostly build their typical domed nest amongst twiggy branches, if they have no living bushes at their disposal.

My birds have in one aviary two Poplars, a Syringa, two standard Bay trees growing in tubs, and thick ivy, covering about ten yards of wall—the Waxbills appear to prefer the Bays to any other bush, for one tree contains three nests and the other two.

It is possible that the absence of lower branches gives the birds a sense of security—which in effect could be made absolute, by keeping the trees away from the wire netting, and putting a disc of tin round the trunk to prevent the approach of mice.

I have myself proved quite definitely that live ants' eggs are not a *sine qua non*, but *I* think they are the finest possible food for young Waxbills of all species.

Even Golden-breasted Waxbills will struggle with a large mealworm if feeding young, and I have on one or two occasions seen them carrying small earthworms. Gentles are a very easily procured live food, and two or three pairs of Waxbills will consume an incredible number a day. They must, however, be well scoured, until they are quite white and free from smell. Mr. P. F. M. Galloway, an authority on insectivorous birds tells me that flour or oatmeal is the best scouring medium, and that he does not like the use of sand for this purpose.

In an old fashioned book on bird keeping by C. W. Gedney—the writer advocates the soaking of spray millet for a few hours. and I have found that some of the Waxbills prefer it in this condition, and ignore the dry spray as long as there is any soaked seed to be had.

Some species undoubtedly do best if kept in single pairs, whilst others are more inclined to breed if kept in small colonies. A sharp eye should always be kept on single or unmated birds, who are very much inclined to pry and often destroy a clutch or brood. I know a certain cock Firefinch who, I feel sure, interfered with the nesting in my aviaries this year.

The following mixture is much liked by all Waxbills, and forms a good change of diet if given once or twice weekly—the recipe was given me by a fellow member: "Half-ounce each of Teazle, Charlock, Clover, and Plantain; one ounce each of Lettuce, Maw, and Mustard, three ounces each of Cornflower and Grass seed, and 2 ounces Cabbage seeds."

I have rushed into print, not because I consider myself an authority on the subject, but because I am extremely fond of all Waxbills, which although apparently hardy and eager to nest, are seldom bred except in quite small numbers.

There is evidently something wanting either in dietary or management, and it is by correspondence such as that began by Capt. Reeve that useful knowledge or hints can be acquired.

Eton, September 20th. (Dr.) MAURICE AMSLER.

VAGARIES OF THE NESTING SEASON.

Sir,—I am sending you a few notes re my breeding results this year. It has indeed been a bad season with me, practically no result in my aviaries this year, doubtless owing to the intense dry heat which has prevailed.

A pair of Long-tailed Grassfinches have built no less than seven nests and laid a clutch of eggs in each! They incubated well, yet no results. The eggs were all fertile but contained chicks dead in shell.

The same annoying conditions have prevailed with Zebra Finches and Cutthroats, although the latter at their fourth attempt have a brood about ready to leave the nest.

Parrakeets have fared no better. The Red-rumps which last year fully reared seven vigorous youngsters, have not even got as far as eggs this season, though apparently very fit. Yellow-faced Conures have got as far as eggs—most disappointing.

Even the usually prolific Budgerigars have the same record of failure. True, I introduced fresh stock to prevent deterioration, but this should surely not have upset them sufficiently to nullify all nesting results.

The Red-crested Cardinals have nested twice, with clutches of five and four respectively—again no result.

I suppose these disappointments, etc., are the glory or otherwise of aviculture!

Wolverhampton, September 19th. H. S. DEAN.

STRAY NOTES.

Sir,—In the August issue our esteemed Editor asks for copy for the British Bird Section, so am sending you some notes on my sister's birds in case they should be of any use. I had no idea the club had anything to do with British birds and Canaries till seeing that notice.

I keep a few and hope to try and cross some next season. As regards my own birds I have no copy for you as too many are kept together to have good breeding results, as they disturb each other. I think I must put up with a few in future and try to do better. When I wrote to you in March the Yellow Budgerigars were nesting but I have only one young bird as the result. There were five eggs, but the other four all contained fully formed dead birds, so I feel rather puzzled as to why none of them hatched out. The hen proved a good mother to her one chick. Except for a few Canaries that is the only young bird I have this season. The Grassfinches and some other birds had eggs but they proved too tempting for the Robins. I have five Pekin Robins and I think next season they must be separated or else I must separate the nesting birds as the Robins pull the nests to pieces.

June 1910 I had one pair of Budgerigars; when I wrote you in March this year I had 60 or so birds, now they number just over 90. When I bought most of my birds between September 1910 and March 1911, I had a few losses from getting newly imported birds but not many, though I lost my only pair of Gouldians, they were not in very good condition but were the only ones I could get at the time.

This year I have had very few losses, though all the winter and since, the birds have been kept in an unheated room and the window is always open. About February one Grassfinch died from pneumonia and since then I lost a Cutthroat hen from egg binding, a Robin through an accident, and a Bronze-wing Mannikin and Spice Bird during the heat, so on the whole considering the number of birds, I do not think I can complain of the losses. The Bishops, Weavers, Cordon Bleus, etc., have all come into very bright colour again which I feared might not be the case being cage moulted.

I find even the tiny Golden-breasted Waxbills and Avadavats like the mealworms and cecto as much as the larger birds do. I give the birds white, Indian and spray millet, paddy rice and oats, soft food, cecto and mealworms, ants' eggs (dry now and then) and dried flies, oranges, apples, grapes or other fruit and green food, now and then a little of Hyde's mixed seed, but they do not eat much of it. The above is what the small foreign finches have, of course the Budgerigars, Canaries, British birds and Cardinals have other seed and are not in the same aviary as the Finches.

In the summer the bath is left on all day, and in the winter for an hour or so; in the winter a little warm water is added to the bath. Every two or three weeks a little glycerine is added to the drinking water, and now and then Parrish's chemical food.

The birds which have the above treatment, and all live together are various Mannikins, Singing Finches, Bishops, Weavers, Cordon Bleus, various Waxbills, Pin-tailed Nonpareils, Spice Birds, Silverbills, Bengalese, Long-tailed Grassfinches, Combasou, Pekin Robins, Ruficauda Finches, Cutthroats, Zebra Finches, and Avadavats. I regret to have so little of interest to record but hope to have better results another year.

(Miss) ALFREDA B. SMYTH.

MARKED BIRDS.

Sir,—Possibly it may be of interest to readers of *Bird Notes* to know that I found a Blue Tit, which came into my room in search of food, and in trying to get out again stunned itself against the window. On picking it up I saw a ring on its leg, marked "Aberdeen Univ. 576": this shows how far these small birds fly, and we have such a number during the winter, that I often wonder where they go during the summer, and whether the same birds come back year by year.

(Miss) DOROTHY E. PITHIE.

Post Mortem Reports.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. *must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.*

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret

ADULT RED-HEADED GOULDIAN AND 2 YOUNG BLACK-HEADED GOULDIAN FINCHES. (Dr. J. Easton-Scott). All three of these birds had an apoplectic condition of the liver and their spleens were enlarged, suggesting they were affected during life with a septicaemia.

Green (♂), and Yellow (♂) Canaries. (John Dobbie). These two birds were very much emaciated. One had fatty degeneration of the kidneys and the other suffered from pneumonia and extreme distension of the crop and gizzard ingesta, but as both were undergoing decomposition it is impossible to say the true nature of the malady, the other conditions being without a doubt accidental. The canary seed in the mixture was inferior in quality.

Young Red-crested Cardinal. (B. Hamilton-Scott). This bird no doubt died of catarrh probably induced by a change in the weather.

Rufous-throated Sugar Bird (♂). (Lady Kathleen Pilkington). There is no doubt that this bird died from convulsions. It was in a very good condition.

Many-coloured Parrakeet (♂). (Miss M. Bousfield, Bournemouth). Cause of death was pneumonia.

Yellow-rumped Mannikin (♂). (Capt. J. Sherard Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln). The cause of death was pneumonia.

Cock Black Tanager. (Chas. H. Robinson, The Grange, Glaisdale, Grosmont, R.S.O.) Cause of death was an injury to the skull.

Roller Canary (♂). (Rev. John M. Paterson, St. John's Vicarage, Hollington, Sussex). Cause of death enteritis.

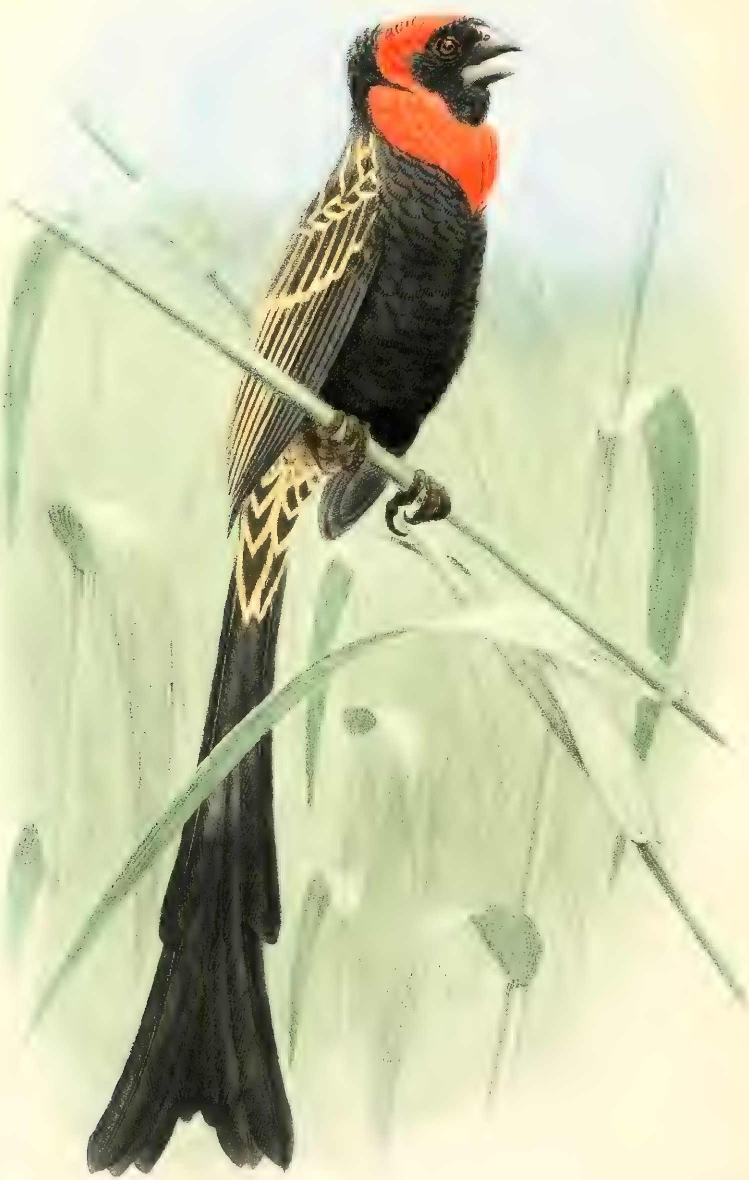
Green Budgerigar (♀). (B. Hamilton-Scott, Ipswich). Acute yellow atropy was cause of death.

(H. W. Mathias, Stubbington, Hants.) The cause of the beautiful young Painted Finch's death was pneumonia.

Painted Finch (♂). (The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Tadcaster). Cause of death pneumonia.

Answered by Post—H. Willford, W. R. Temple, and Miss R. Alderson.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



H.Goodchild, del et lith.

Huth, imp.

CRIMSON-RINGED WHYDAH.

Penthetria laticauda

From life.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Two Rare Whydahs.

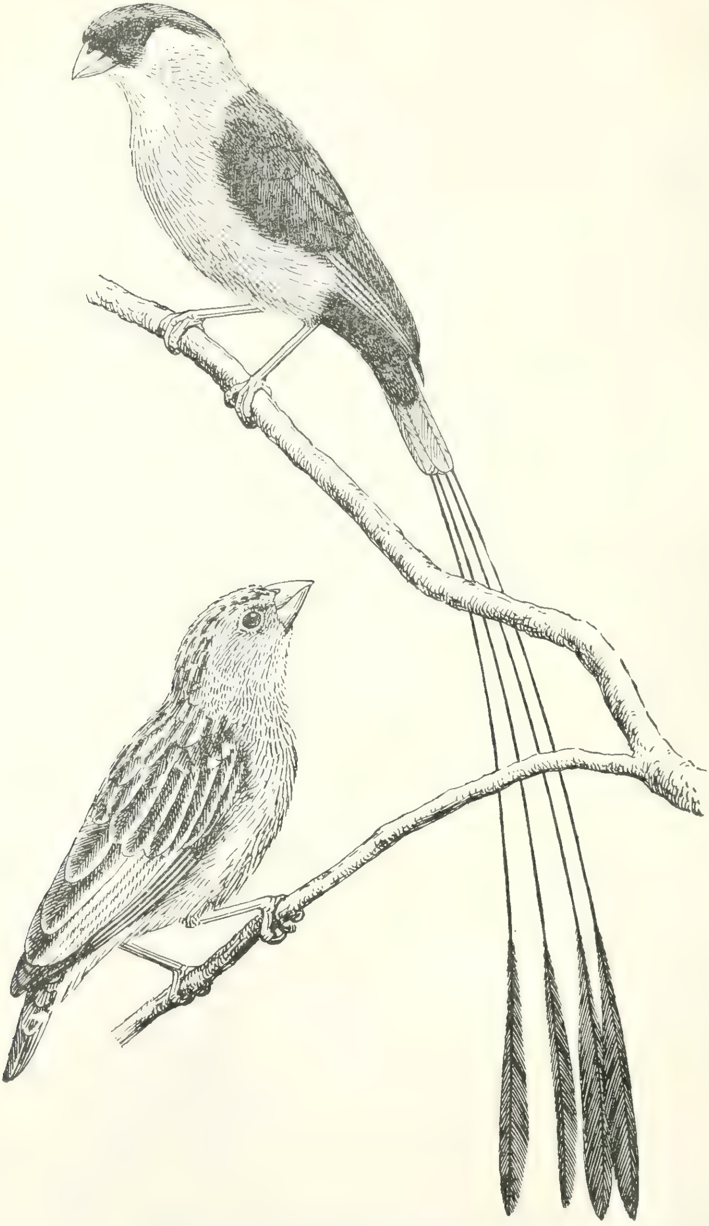
BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

The two Whydahs described in this paper have not, until very recently, been in private hands, but two specimens (♂) of the Crimson-ringed of which we give a coloured plate, and five specimens (♂) of Jackson's or the Drooping-winged Whydahs, came into the possession of the London Zoo simultaneously, viz., October, 1910—a specimen, probably one of the latter, afterwards came into the possession of our esteemed member Mr. C. T. Maxwell, and was exhibited by him at the recent Clapham Show, securing premier honours in its class. Mr. Goodchild's excellent drawing figures this species displaying (? playing) on the ground. A line drawing, also from Mr. Goodchild's pencil, of the Queen Whydah (*Vidua regia*), is also figured, but, merely for comparison purposes only, as this species was fully described in *Bird Notes*, Vol. VI.

At the Zoo these two species have lived together in one of the roomy central cages in the Small Birds' House for the past twelve months, and though there has been much "scrapping" (while they were in colour), no harm has resulted therefrom—the plates fully indicate what charming and interesting acquisitions they would make to aviculture, and one can only hope that soon a consignment may arrive, sufficiently numerous for dispersal among the numerous garden (wilderness) aviaries, now scattered throughout the country, where they will have a reasonable prospect of reproducing their kind.

Both species were presented to the London Zoological Society by Mrs. G. Style.

CRIMSON-RINGED (CRIMSON-NAPED) WHYDAH (*Penthetria laticauda*). This fine and rare species is figured in colour by Mr. Goodchild and in a most characteristic attitude, a pose which it often assumed amid the branches of its roomy



Queen Whydah (*Vidua regia*).

For detailed description—vide "B.N." Vol. VI., pages 5--7.

enclosure in the Small Birds' House, in fact, the ardour of the display (? play) seemed to be quite unaffected by the absence of an admiring mate—though of course whether the *full* display, or merely play, was indulged in or not, appears to be an open question. One fact remains, the two males at the Zoo are very ardent, and while in colour are seldom still, or quiet, for long together, and in spite of the stiff formation of their caudal plumes, compared with the Giant Whydah (*Chera procne*), are very handsome and interesting birds, as a glance at the plate will readily demonstrate. With Mr. Goodchild's beautiful drawing before us a description seems superfluous, but to do so would be *contre les règles,* therefore I must bow to custom (Mr. Goodchild's extracts now make this unnecessary).

It is a native of East Africa, and is reputed to be common around Nairobi, but very few birds from East Africa have reached the English market—there certainly is room for this and the following species.

Since writing the above Mr. Goodchild has kindly supplied the following extracts from various issues of the "Ibis."

Penthetria laticauda (Licht.)

From Mr. F. J. Jackson's article, Ibis, 1899, p. 598.

Coliuspasser laticauda Reichenb, Vög. deutsch Ost-Afrikas.

"Mau Plateau, 8,700 feet, August 3, 1896. Iris brown; bill, and feet black. Plentiful in boggy hollows, where the grass is long. I saw this bird playing at its game of jumping up and down. (cf. Ibis, 1891, p. 245).

Nandi, 6,500 feet, April 12, 1898. Iris brown, bill brown, the lower mandible pale brown at tip, fading into dusky white at base; feet brown. Still in flocks, consisting mostly of males in mottled plumage.

Nandi, 6,500 feet, April 16, 1898 Nos. 997—1,000. ♀ *ad et* ♂ *juv.* All shot out of one large flock.

From Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe's article "On the Birds collected by Mr. F. J. Jackson, F.Z.S., during his recent expedition to Uganda through the territory of the Imperial East African Company." By R. Bowdler Sharpe, L.L.D., F.Z.S., with notes by the collector. Part I. (Ibis, 1891, p. 233).

Penthetria laticauda.

"No. 13 ♂ *ad.* Elgeyo, July 4, 1890; all 8,000 to 9,000 feet. Only seen in long reeds and bulrushes at the swampy end of the small lake on the top of Elgeyo. Evidently breeding.

No. 61. ♂ ad. Lake Nahuro, Masai, July 23, 1890. Bill and legs black; irides brown. Very plentiful in the long grass near Lake Nahuro.

"This bird has a curious habit of making a playground for itself. I noticed several in the long grass, and I saw the male evidently playing as it darted several times into the air to a height of about four feet, and then darted down again. Their "playing-ground" is evidently a work of some time, as the grass is all worn away in an irregular circle with the exception of a small tuft left in the centre with two or three little recesses at the base, which are evidently the result of the birds' play."

No. 90. ♂ juv. Lumbwa, October 8th, 1889.—Irides brown; legs slaty flesh-colour.

Penthetria lauticauda.

Mr. G. H. Gurney on "Birds from British East Africa. Ibis 1909, p. 489.

12. *Penthetria laticauda.* Red-naped Whydah. Iris brown; bill black; legs brown.

The Red-naped Whydah was only obtained near the native Shambas in the Reserve at Kallima Theki, and was by no means common there; on April 12th two males were shot which were both in mottled plumage.

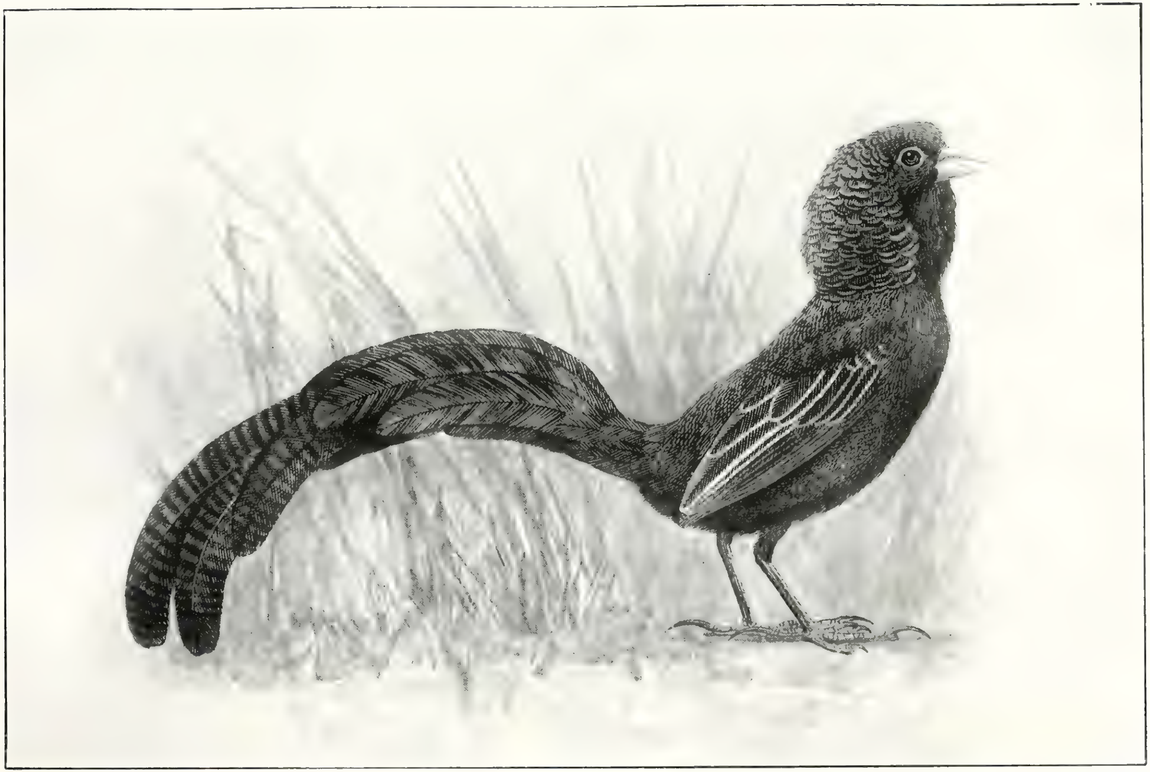
Capt. G. E. Shelley on Birds from Eastern Africa.

Coliuspasser laticauda (Licht.)

"Only seen in one place on the S.W. slopes of the mountain (Kilima-njaro, May 1887) where they were fairly plentiful and evidently breeding."

JACKSON'S OR DROOPING-TAILED WHYDAH (*Drepanoplectes jacksoni*). Another handsome species, which apart from the Zoo specimens, and the one referred to in my opening remarks, is unknown to English aviculture. Though not so brightly clad as the preceding species, it is yet a more attractive bird—while heavily built, it is graceful, and, yet, at the same time very grotesque. Its movements amid the branches and on the ground are extremely interesting—on the ground when displaying or playing, while in colour this appears to be almost continuous, except when visiting the seed pan; it is a miniature replica of a bantam fowl, and a glance at Mr. Goodchild's characteristic drawing will confirm this. At the recent club meeting this species came in for a great deal of notice and was greatly admired; personally, I must confess to a very strong liking and admiration for it. It appeals to me, even more, than the elegant and beautiful Queen Whydah which was figured and described in "B.N." Vol. V., pages 5—7.

Habitat: East Africa, reputed to be common around Nairobi.



From Life by H. Goodchild.

Jackson's (Drooping-tailed) Whydah.

Mr. Goodchild's full and interesting extracts from the "Ibis" of the species in a state of nature render further comment superfluous.

Drepanoplectes jacksoni (Sharpe).

From Dr. S. L. Hinde's article in Ibis 1898, p. 577.

(Vide Sharpe, Ibis 1891, p. 246, Plate V.) A ♂ ad. Machake's, April 30th, 1896.

The males of this species frequently form a play-ground in the long grass on the plains. The play-ground made by each bird is circular, about 2 feet in diameter; the grass is beaten quite flat inside the ring, except one tuft in the very centre. A flock of these birds playing has a curious effect, as they jump about 3 feet into the air and drop down again into the circle, each bird jumping from five to ten times in a minute.

From F. T. Jackson's article, Ibis 1899, p. 599.

"*Drepanoplectes jacksoni* (Sharpe), Ibis 1891, p. 247.

"*Coliipasser jacksoni* (Shelley B.), Africa I., p. 24.

"No. 77. ♂. North of Lake Elmateita, April 25, 1896. Iris brown: bill pale green, the base and the lower mandible black; feet brownish black. Very plentiful, in large flocks."

"Nos. 1180—1183, ♂ ad. Nandi, 6,000 feet, June 2, 1898."

"Now commencing to breed. I found the nests, but only one contained a single egg. The nest is rather a flimsy structure, made of fine dry grass and lined with the seed-heads of fine grass, with an entrance at the side, like the nest of a Willow Wren. It is placed on the edge of swampy places, but not on the coarse herbage of the swamps, within an inch or two of the ground. The birds bend down the surrounding blades of grass and weave them into the top of the nest, which makes the latter not only more difficult to detect, but also renders it more waterproof. Like *Penthetria laticauda*, the cock birds make play-grounds for themselves, on which they dance up and down on and off throughout the day, but more vigorously in the early mornings and late evenings. Yesterday evening I watched several within a radius of 100 yards; and a truly ridiculous sight it was to see these pitch-black curiously-shaped objects, bobbing up and down out of the grass. From an ant-heap close by I watched for a long time four cock birds within 40 yards of me; and as the sun was within half an hour of setting and shining brightly at my back, I had a first-rate opportunity of noticing how they assumed their curious attitude, and succeeded in making a fairly accurate drawing of them. The actual position is as follows: The head is thrown back like that of a proud Turkey-cock, the beak being held horizontally. The feet hang downwards; the tail is held straight up till it touches the ruff at the base of the head and neck, the ends of the feathers falling in a curve downwards, with the exception of two tail-feathers which are held outward and downward.

While actually rising in the air the half-open wings are worked with a very quick shivering motion, and the feet are also moved up and down very rapidly. The bird springs straight up in the air, sometimes for a few inches, and sometimes to a height of two feet, and then drops. The whole of the plumage is much puffed out throughout the performance, which is repeated five or six times, with a short interval for rest The game would appear to be somewhat fatiguing, as a bird rarely makes more than five or six jumps at a time without a short rest. Only on one occasion was a female present on the play-ground. They very often assume their curious jumping attitude some little distance before they arrive at their playground. At night they roost in the tall reeds and rushes in the swampy hollows."

Ibis, 1891, Mr. Jackson's notes, p. 247 " Seen in flocks in the long grasses," Masai Land, July 22, 1890.

From G. H. Gurney, Birds from British East Africa
Ibis, 1909, p. 489.
Drephanoplectes jacksoni, Sharpe.
Jackson's Whydah.
" Bill pale brown, iris brown; legs brown.

Jackson's Whydah was very common at Naivasha and a long series was obtained, the males varying enormously in the extent of the breeding-plumage; by March 9th the majority were in nearly full dress, though on the 12th I shot two males out of one flock, one of which was still entirely in its mottled brown plumage, while the other was in very nearly full breeding-plumage. Parties of forty or fifty females were generally accompanied by seven or eight males. This species makes rather remarkable playing-grounds for itself, though I only saw the *males* using them; each playground is round and generally rather more than two feet across; the grass is completely trampled down except for a tuft, which is left standing in the middle. It is a most extraordinary sight to see the males in full breeding plumage with a tail a foot long performing in these dancing-grounds. They begin by scratching with their feet in the ground, and make the earth fly out beneath their tails, which they hold straight up, almost touching the back of their heads; in this position they have a ridiculous similarity to little cocks; they then spring into the air four or five times with quivering wings and feathers much puffed out, after a short rest the whole performance is repeated."

Visits to Members' Aviaries.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

(Continued from page 268).

Dr. Amsler has kindly sent me bare records of his successes and failures, which I have written into the account of my visit, adding greatly I think, to its interest.

Dr. Amsler's Aviaries: (No. 1 Aviary). This aviary has a fair amount of natural cover and has a shelter attached—size of flight 15 x 5 feet. One pair of Gold-fronted Green Fruitsuckers (*Chloropsis aurifrons*), enjoyed semi-liberty here and were in excellent condition; they have made several attempts to reproduce their kind, but though a chick has been hatched on each occasion—three clutches of eggs (two in number), were laid on June 4, July 20, and August 4, the respective chicks were fed for $1\frac{1}{2}$, 12, and 8 days, and each time were found thrown out of the nest. Very disappointing, yet one can deduce this from the above incident, that in the near future this species should be successfully bred, the chief obstacle being the difficulty of getting true pairs. I certainly hope that the distinction of breeding this species for the first time will fall to the lot of Dr. Amsler, also that he will send us a detailed account of the above interesting but disappointing episodes.

No. 2 Aviary: Very similar to No. 1 as to its arrangement, but is a little larger, the flight being 18 x 7 feet.

It contained quite a series of beautiful and interesting birds, as follow:

2 Pairs Gouldian Finches.
2 ,, Zebra Finches.
1 Pair Ruficauda Finches.
1 Black-headed Siskin (♂), mated with hen Canary.
1 Pair Cuba Finches.
2 Pairs Sikhim Siskins (*C. tibetana*)
2 ,, Rufous-throated Blue Sugar-bird

Also a brood of Painted Quail, bred this summer in Aviary No. 3.

Gouldian Finches: These only commenced to nest with the advent of cold weather and Dr. Amsler proposes separating the sexes for fear of egg binding.

Zebra Finches: These have been nesting on and off the whole season, numberless eggs have been laid, and the birds have incubated steadily, but the bulk of the eggs have proved infertile—no young reared. Dr. Amsler attributes this either to the drought or in-breeding.

Ruficauda Finches: These have nested four times, but have only fully reared two young. The young disappear when four or five days old—Dr. Amsler suspects mice, which are very numerous. Now incubating a fifth clutch. (2 young fully reared).

Cuba Finches: These too have nested three or four times with the net result of one young bird fully reared. The other young disappeared unaccountably. Three more left nest October 7.

The Rufous-throated Blue Sugarbirds and Siklim Siskins have made no attempt to nest.

Black-headed Siskin x Canary: These have nested, and the eggs were fertile, but no young were reared. Dr. Amsler informs me the B. H. Siskin is very pugnacious, a very fine songster, and perfectly hardy, and has been successfully wintered out of doors—it sings during frosty weather. The birds in this aviary were all the picture of health, apparently very vigorous and full of vivacity—with their brilliant plumage making an entrancing picture as they disported themselves amid the living bushes with which their enclosure was garnished.

No. 3 Aviary: This aviary has a glass shelter with a flight of 18 x 6 feet, filled with privet, and bay-bushes, etc. It contained the following pairs:

Black-headed Sugarbirds.
Yellow-headed Reed Birds
Blue Grosbeaks.
Chinese-painted Quails.
Black-cheeked Cardinals (*P. nigrigenis*).

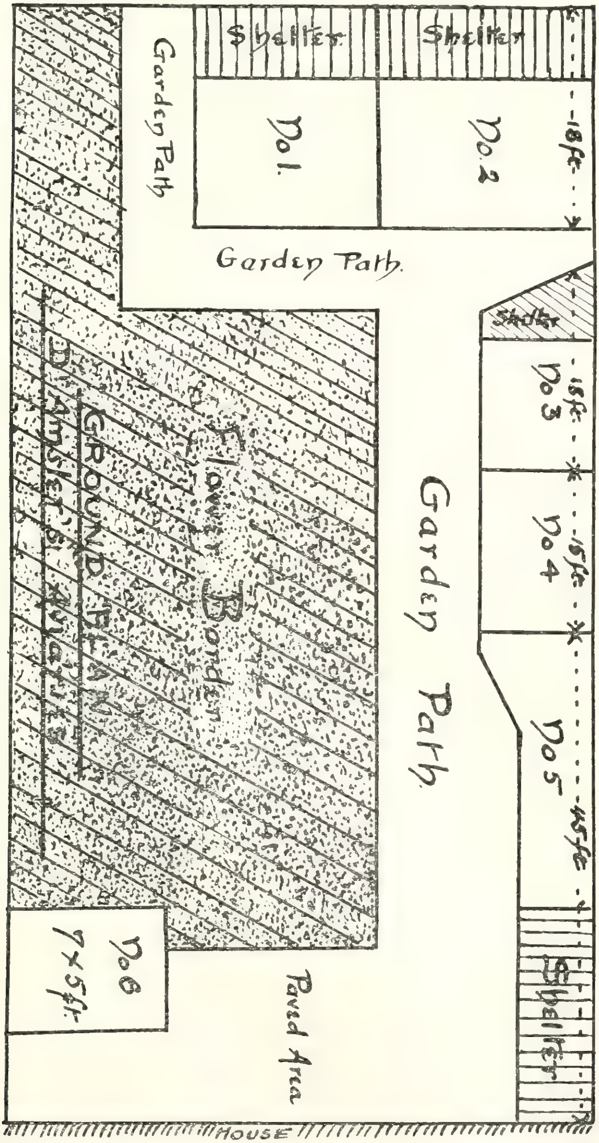
Black-headed Sugarbirds: These simply played at nesting, the hen sat in a thrush's nest and was fed by the cock, but no serious attempts were made—very beautiful, but also rather quarrelsome.

Black-cheeked Cardinals: An exquisitely beautiful and uncommon species, and a certain pair, but they have done nothing save "look pretty."

Blue Grosbeaks: I had better quote Dr. Amsler's terse notes respecting this, another beautiful and by no means common species: "The hen started carrying nesting material "in spring, but when I obtained a mate for her, from Mr. "Teschemaker, she changed her mind and elected to remain a "spinster. (Rather shy and retiring birds—quite inoffensive.)"

Yellow-headed Reed Birds: These are a very handsome species belonging to the Starling-tribe. Dr. Amsler considers the hens rather delicate, having lost two, but at the same time he finds them quite indifferent to cold, wintering out of doors quite comfortably. They made no attempt to nest. In Mr. Suggitt's aviary at Cleethorpes a nest was built, but no young were reared.

Chinese Painted Quail: These minute and beautiful members of the Quail family are worth a place in every out-


Shelter
Shelter
Garden Path
No 1
No 2
18 ft
Garden Path
Shelter
No 3
15 ft
No 4
15 ft
Garden Path
No 5
15 ft
Shelter
Flower Border
GROUND PLAN
Dr. Amsler's Aviaries
No 6
7×5 ft.
Paved Area
HOUSE

door aviary, and mostly subsist on the seed the other birds scatter about. They nested and hatched out five chicks, of which four were reared in July. A second brood was hatched out in September, of which only one was reared. Dr. Amsler remarks: "It is rather important I think, to remove the chicks when about five weeks old—as they are inclined to disturb the hen if she lays again."

AVIARY No. 4: This, another well arranged natural enclosure 15 x 5 feet, with plenty of head room, was occupied by a pair of Tri-coloured Parrot Finches, but they have made no return for the ample accommodation given them. Three clutches of eggs have been laid, but all proved infertile. Dr. Amsler states that they have been more or less in the moult all the summer, first the hen and then the cock.

AVIARY No. 5: This aviary, though 45 feet long, is but 4—6 feet deep, but has plenty of head room, and is admirably arranged with growing bushes, privet, sweet bay, etc., which the tiny feathered occupants appeared to be enjoying to the full. It contained pairs of the following species:

Blue-breastad Waxbills.
Golden-breasted Waxbills.
Avadavats.
Common Waxbills.
St. Helena Waxbills.
Painted Finches
Gouldian Finches.
Cuba Finches.
Parrot Finches.
Hooded Siskins.
Yellow-winged Sugarbirds.

The following notes on their doings are extracts from Dr. Amsler's letters.

Blue-breasted Waxbills: "Built a spherical nest in a standard bay tree, and four clutches were laid during the season."

"Their first attempt resulted in infertile eggs; at the second attempt two chicks were hatched, of which one was fully reared."

"Their third attempt again resulted in infertile eggs, while two young birds were hatched from their fourth clutch and appear likely to be fully reared, being now ten days old."

"These are charming birds, about half-an-inch longer than the Cordon Bleu, from which they are easily distinguished by the beak being of a dark horn colour. They are certainly hardier than the closely allied species."

Golden-breasted Waxbills: "These have nested several times, one young bird was fully reared from the second nest, and they have at the present time three chicks about ready to fly." Left nest September 20th.

Avadavats: "The cock did not come into colour until the middle of August—there is at present a noisy nestful, about fourteen days old." Four youngsters flew September 25th.

Common (Grey) Waxbills: "Quite recent arrivals, and have made no attempt at nesting."

St. Helena Waxbills: "A true pair were brought to me from Cape Town by a friend, who thought he had got hold of something good! They arrived on June 17th; on the 18th I turned them out about noon, and by 4 p.m. the same day they had built and completed a large spherical nest in a Syringa bush. I think the pleasure of being amid green foliage, after weeks in a small travelling cage, must be a very strong incentive indeed, to produce such energy—eggs were laid a week later, but the hen must have died as I have not seen her since."

Painted Finches: Beautiful birds, but somewhat disappointing as to nesting results. "The first attempt resulted in one or more young chicks, which were fed and heard calling, but disappeared when ten days old. One chick was found just below the nest, its crop was quite full. Here, again, I suspect mice were were the culprits."

Gouldian Finches: Beautiful as this species is, it is the source of more disappointment to its ardent admirers, than, I think, any other imported species. "This pair were found sitting in a nesting-box on August 29th, but the box unfortunately fell off its nail a few days later, and the five eggs, which all contained young birds, were spoilt. Now sitting again in my birdroom."

Hooded Siskins: Dr. Amsler informs me that he has had these charming birds for two years, but that though apparently fit and vigorous the whole period, not a single attempt at nesting has been made, though the cock occasionally feeds the hen. The cock is a good songster, and gave me a good taste of his melody as I stood admiring him. Mr. H. D. Astley has got as far as young with this species, but they were not reared.

Cuba Finches: Dr. Amsler writes: "I bought the hen of this pair from a dealer two years ago, because she had a 'hipped wing,' and hoped to be able to cure her. No improvement has taken place, but although she cannot rise more than a foot from the ground, she always appears bright and well." "This year to reward me for procuring her a mate she built a nest, six feet from the ground. Each piece of nesting material was conveyed to its destination by a process of climing and jumping up the wire netting." "Out of two nests one young bird was fully reared."

Parrot Finches: This, another beautiful and scarce Grassfinch has proved a great source of disappointment and also loss to many of its admirers. "My birds brought off two broods of young, only two in each case, of which the first two had died unaccountably when six or seven weeks old."

Yellow-winged Sugarbirds: "Very beautiful and interesting but, they thought more of their milk-sop and fruit than they did of their matrimonial obligations. They were out in the early part of the year when the thermometer registered frost on several nights, and I could not see that they were any the worse for their experience. I have since parted with them to a fellow member."

By Dr. Maurice Amsler.

The season, which began most promisingly has proved singularly disappointing.

At the end of May I had more than a dozen different species incubating clutches of eggs and now the season is over I have hardly that number of youngsters to show. The *dry* weather is certainly blameable for chicks dead in shell, but I think that infertile eggs (and of course young birds thrown out of the nest) were mostly due to the nocturnal wanderings of mice, with which I was this year over-run. I tried Danyz and Liverpool Virus without any improvement, this autumn, however, I have effected a complete clearance by placing, *in safe places,* canary seed which I had soaked in a strong solution of Strychnine.

On several occasions I have picked up dead mice in the seed dish—I think that one seed does the trick, so it behoves one to be careful in safe guarding one's birds.

Some time back there was a discussion in the avicultural papers as to the "nicest" bird for a "one bird man." The first writer quoted the tameness of "George" the Hangnest in the Western Aviaries at the Zoological Gardens; another advocated the qualities of the Shama, and I here would put in a plea for two species, both more beautiful than either of the above, viz.: the Gold-fronted Fruitsucker and the Black-headed Sugarbird—the former all seem to become tame and confiding, and are moreover fine songsters and mimics.

The Sugarbirds came to me from a fellow aviculturist who had bought them from an exhibitor, so it is possible that their former life had steadied them—but certain it is that they have lost none of their tameness by aviary-life, and a more beautiful or affectionate pair of birds it would be difficult to find.

Of seed-eating Foreigners I have found Blue-breasted Waxbills and Hooded Siskins the most fearless and confiding, and if the latter would only breed, they would certainly be my favourite hardbills—the hen quite apart from her rarity is a gem and can hardly be driven away from the feeding door if she suspects maw or hempseed.

Of other popular birds I find Gouldian Finches lethargic and rather stupid, whereas both species of Parrot Finches are almost always wild, and dash about as if they had just been caught.

This applies equally to aviary bred birds, but they certainly steady down when they have young and recognise their owner as the provider of insects.

I regret we have been unable to have a photo-reproduction of one of the aviaries, to illustrate their pleasing and practical arrangement, with their abundance of natural cover—the ground plan, gives an idea as to the arrangement of the series of aviaries and indicates their respective sizes. No. 6 is given up to odd and unpaired birds, as also is the bird-room in the house. I trust Dr. Amsler will pardon the use I have made of his letters, as the inclusion of his practical notes and comments, makes the description of my visit of general interest. The other aviaries referred to on page 268 of last issue will be described in December issue.

To be Continued.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 254).

STRIGIDAE.

Owls are here, as in other countries, birds of ill omen. This perhaps more particularly applies to the big Grey Eagle-Owl, which besides its general reputation as a bird of woe is believed by the natives to possess weird powers as well—powers which will ensure a dreadful fate, probably within the year, overtaking any man who is rash enough to kill one. I remember one year my native dresser mistaking one in the dim light of an early dawn for a roosting Guineafowl, and under this impression shooting it; great was his dismay when he realised what he had bagged, fear was writ largely on his face. However, after a few days he became more cheerful, and no doubt by then had purged his offence by the performance of the ritual proper for such an occasion, accompanied, one may be sure, by the disbursement of the necessary sum of money to some person able to counteract the malign influence of the slaughtered owl.

Asio capensis. AFRICAN EARED OWL.

Range. Tropical Africa; North Africa. Spain (*H.L*).

A dark brown bird with pale under surface spotted with brown on the abdomen; it has small ear-tufts and black rings round the eyes, while the rest of the face is brownish grey. Length about 14½ inches. The only example I have seen wild was one which got up in front of the beaters one day when we were shooting in the big game swamps at Salikenni; in 1908 also a friend of mine had one for some time in a cage in Bathurst.

Glaucidium perlatum. AFRICAN PIGMY OWL.

Range. West, South, and North-east Africa.

A small earless Owl, whose general colour is light brown spotted with white above and whitish mottled with brown below. Its length is seven inches, and its irides are bright yellow. A small Owl, which I am nearly sure is this species, is not at all uncommon here. One frequently sees it abroad in the daylight, even in bright sunlight.

Scops leucotis. WHITE-EARED SCOPS OWL.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

The commonest small Owl of this country. I have had two alive on different occasions, and there are now in the Zoo a pair which were caught in Bathurst last year. Their general colour is grey streaked with black, while their most conspicuous features are the black and white facial marks. In length they measure 7 inches. Their note is a soft hoot, rather resembling the cooing of a Dove.

Bubo cinerascens. GREY EAGLE-OWL.

Range. North-east and West Africa.

This Eagle-Owl, about the same size as the European species but with a lighter grey plumage, is fairly common here. I have seen two alive in captivity at different times, and frequently when out late in the evening in the bush see one or more on the wing. According to the natives they feed chiefly on Bushfowl. Their note is a raucous hoot.

Scotopelia peli. PEL'S FISHING OWL.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Gaboon. East Africa (*H.L.*)

S. oustaleti.

Range. Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

I know neither of these birds here. Pel's Fishing Owl, of which there is generally an example in the Zoo, is a large and very handsome bird, with rufous upper parts and buff, fawn and white undersurface.

Strix flammea. BARN OWL.

Range. Cosmopolitan.

The Barn Owl is rather a rare bird here, but I once had one which was caught on the North Bank in a disused well, down which a pair had been living for some time. There was no obvious difference between this bird and the ordinary English specimen.

General native names for all the Owls are Kikio and Kikiango (Mandingo), and Horgetch (Joloff).

FALCONIDAE.

Eagles and Hawks form a numerous and noticeable feature of the Gambian *avifauna*. Many species are extremely common and to be seen daily, but others are much rarer; of the identity of many of them I am unfortunately as yet very doubtful.

Pandion haliaetus. OSPREY.

Range. Eastern Hemisphere. (*H.L.*)

On two occasions I have seen birds which I am nearly sure were Ospreys flying over the creeks near Bathurst.

Falco barbarus. BARBARY FALCON.

Range. Mediterranean to North-west India; North-east Africa; Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

This bird, the African representative of the Peregrine, I have never recognised here.

F. concolor. GREY MERLIN.

Range. North-east Africa to Arabia and Madagascar. (*H.L.*)

A small sporting-looking hawk, about 12 inches long, all grey with black shaft-stripes to the feathers. I had one alive in 1905. Their Mandingo name is Séling-koio.

F. tanypterus.

Range. North-east Africa to Arabia and Madagascar. (*H.L.*)

Another hawk I may have seen but which I have never been able to identify. It is a good deal larger than the preceding (male 17, female 19 inches in length), and above is dark slate-coloured except on the crown, which is reddish with black shaft-stripes to the feathers; below it is pale fawn spotted with brown.

(*To be continued*).

Brown-necked Parrot.

By T. H. Newman, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

The following interesting communication is in response to Dr. Hopkinson's request, see page 251 of *B.N.* September issue, current volume.—Ed.

Pæocephalus rubricapillus. Under the above name Forbes and Robinson, in Bulletin of the Liverpool Museums, Vol. I. p. 15, August, 1897, describe two Parrots, ♂ from West Africa (Whitfield, C.), as follows:—

"A specimen from the above locality (No. 809, Lord Derby's collection), which died in confinement at Knowsley in 1867, we find it impossible to assign to any described species known to us. It is near to *P. fuscicollis* and belongs to the section, in Salvadori's key of the genus, in which the ground colour is green, with the bend of the wing, metacarpal edge, and thighs without red colour, and the breast and abdomen green. But the head is neither brown nor yellow. Instead, the whole head, and the neck down to the shoulders, are silver-grey, or silvery brown, each feather broadly tipped with brick red, deeper on the top, of the head, and hind neck, less bright on the sides of the head, throat, and chest. On the latter the silvery part of the feathers is more prominent, and ultimately merges into a pale, greyish-brown chest band, with red shaft stripes; interscapular region dark brown with broad green margins; upper and smaller wing coverts dark brown tipped with green. Lower back, bright green; rump and under surface, green washed with blue; the concealed parts of the flank feathers pale reddish orange. Quills black; secondaries narrowly margined with green on outer web. Upper mandible, large and conspicuously hooked, 1.6 inch, measured from tip to cere with callipers; lower large, 1.1 inch in greatest breadth; length, 9.6; wing, .68; tarsus 1 inch.

"The colour changes and variability of parrots in confinement are well known; and if ours had been a solitary specimen, we should have entered it as *P. fuscicollis*, var. We have, however, two specimens identical in every respect, a precise similarity not likely to occur in both specimens, if abnormal."

Count Salvadori in his excellent critical notes on the Parrots described since he wrote Vol. XX. of the "Brit. Mus. Cat. of Birds," comments on the above in Ibis, 1906, p. 654 thus:—

"Forbes and Robinson have described two birds in the Liverpool Museum, which had been kept in confinement. They differ from *P. fuscicollis* in having the silvery-grey or silvery-brown feathers of the head and neck broadly tipped with red.

"According to Dr. Reichenow they are cage-varieties of *P. fuscicollis*."

This last statement seems to be a part of but not the whole truth, as we learn from Dr. Hopkinson's most instructive article in *Bird Notes* p.p. 250—254, September, 1911, that the *young* of *Paocephalus fuscicollis* have red heads and necks, so that *P. rubricapillus* appears to be simply the young, not "cage varieties," of *P. fuscicollis*.

Salvadori in Cat. Bds. XX., p. 365 and W. L. Sclater, *Birds of S. Africa*, III., p. 226, both state that the young of *P. fuscicollis* has *no* red on the head, while the adult has this colour, a very natural conclusion to come to, but which Dr. Hopkinson has shown to be the reverse of the actual facts.

Aviaries and Birds at Hoddam Castle.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

(*Continued from page* 243).

Fair Lories (*Charmosynopsis pulchella*). This beautiful species is impossible to paint in a word picture, the utmost one can do but very faintly indicates their glowing beauty—they formed a picture, in their enclosure of rich tropical colouring that is simply indescribable—a sight that once seen is never forgotten. Briefly they may be described as miniature Stella's Lories, and a reference to the coloured plate in *Bird Notes*, Vol. I. N.S., page 65 will indicate this more clearly than pages of text.

Description: It is not much larger than a Budgerigar, but has a shorter tail. Head and underparts shining cardinal-red, with a patch of deep violet-blue on the back of the head, and with narrow streaks of yellow on the breast; upper parts and wings vivid green; the tail is pointed, and broadly tipped with fiery orange. The female is similar to the male, save that she has yellow patches on the flanks. Though there have been attempts at nesting no young have been reared. Space will not permit me to linger and I must pass the remaining species in very rapid review.

Yellow-backed or Ceram Lory (*Lorius flavopalliatus*). Of this fine species, there was one male in exquisite plumage, a sketchy description must suffice General colour rich shining cardinal-red, with wings of vivid green, and a mantle patch of bright yellow. It was paired with a very fine specimen of the RED-BREASTED LORY (*L. erythrothorax*), but there has been no result from this union.

BLACK-WINGED LORY (*Eos cyanogenys*). Mr. Brook possesses one female, but as this species was figured in colour in *B.N.* Vol. VIII., with full descriptions on pages 175-7, and 207-212, I can only remark that the bird was in exquisite plumage and condition.

BLUE-STREAKED LORY (*Eos reticulata*). This exquisite and rare species is represented by a pair, in very finest condition and colouring. The body colouring is fiery cardinal-red, with purple-blue variegations, but the shot-blue nape-streaks are the feature of its plumage—the iridescence and lovely hue being quite indescribable—lovely indeed as they disported in their enclosure.

RED-FRONTED OR YELLOW-STREAKED LORY (*E. scintillatus*). Another very lovely species of somewhat dusky hues, but very beautiful and richly coloured nevertheless. It is figured in monochrome, in *B.N.* Vol. VIII opp. p. 271. Mr. Brook has a very fine male. This species has nested in these aviaries but got no farther than eggs.

DUSKY OR WHITE-BACKED LORY (*E. fuscata*). A pair of this very rare species had recently been added to the collection. This is a very handsome species, clad in a variegated garb of subdued, yet rich hues—it is much to varied for word painting. The upper surface is black with a bronzy tinge, varied with patches of subdued mahogany colour and red in various shades, to a bright patch of golden-bronze on the front of the crown; the under surface is of a lighter and brighter hue, crossed and scaled with red, blue, and orange. The above is very sketchy but it must suffice and is fairly representative. Our esteemed member Mr. W. Goodfellow met with this species in 1908 (only obtaining a skin), in the Astrolabe Mountains of S.E. British New Guinea—in 1909 in the same country he saw many hundreds.

BROOK'S LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus brooki*).

This species, named after our esteemed member, is very similar to the Red-collared (*T. rubritorques*) in size and colour. Unfortunately I have mislaid my notes, and must refer to it again.

Ceylonese Hanging Parrakeet (*Loriculus indicus*). Two males in exquisite condition, represent this gorgeously apparelled and minute Lorikeet.

Description: General body colour vivid green, paler on the underparts; crown, nape, and upper tail-coverts fiery red; nape and mantle washed with orange; lores, cheeks, chin and throat distinctly bluish; inner webs of flights and under surface of tail bluish-green; beak orange-red; feet dull yellow.

This species is not now included in the Loriidæ, it does not possess the fringed (brushed) tongue which characterise this family but, I have left it here as it requires very similar food and treatment—they certainly however, appear to favour Canary seed.

The *Psittacidæ* given in list on p. 182 of current volume, scarcely call for description all being well-known species.

The small birds, Finches, Sugar-birds, Tanagers, etc., have not hitherto figured largely in the Hoddam Castle collection of living birds, but appear likely to be better represented in the future. I cannot give a full list as I did not take notes, but call to mind excellent specimens of Blue Sugarbirds (*Dacnis cayana*), Yellow-winged Sugar-birds (*C. cyanea*); Blue, Superb, Scarlet, and Festive Tanagers; also Gouldian, Parrot, and other Finches.

To be Continued.

Aviary Notes.

By Hon. Mary C. Hawke.

This season, though containing many disappointments and annoying failures, has been a fairly successful one. The birds have done well, and losses have been very few, though considering the almost tropical summer we have had I hoped for better breeding results, as the aviaries get shade during the afternoon and so escaped its most overpowering effects.

Virginian Cardinals: These built a nest and laid quite early in the season; two chicks were hatched out, the parents fed well but, to my surprise, the young did not leave the nest two days after being fully fledged, as all the other Virginians

I have bred did without exception. On examination I found they had rickets; their legs were crooked and one was deformed, so I had to have them killed. They were also swarming with red mite, so I destroyed their nest box and painted round about with "Fenetras" (a mixture of prepared creosote —from R. Meech, Poole, Dorset—it kills red mite and other parasites and young birds too unless used with care), also painting their fresh nest box and washing the old birds with Jeyes' Fluid and water.

Later on they again nested and successfully reared two very fine young birds which are still living.

On September 14, two more equally fine young birds left the nest; but, owing to the parents going into moult, they were neglected, and died before being able to fend for themselves.

The Virginians nest and lay many times during the season; but the young are never easy to rear.

King Parrakeets: These made no attempt to nest this year, I think a pair of Californian Quails in their aviary disturbed them.

Californian Quails: These have been disappointing, have laid thirty eggs, but all were infertile, so after she had incubated for three weeks I gave her a Pheasant's egg that was chipping, the chick hatching out next day—she nursed and successfully brought up this chick.

Stanley Parrakeets: I have had this pair for three years, a clutch of eggs was laid, but unfortunately got broken and no second attempt was made.

Parrot Finches: One pair nested three times and fully reared five young birds; then the cock died. I had a second pair in another aviary, but though they nested and a clutch of eggs was laid, no young were reared.

An Abnormal Change: I bought my pair of Black-cheeked Lovebirds from a member. After having them for a year, the hen started to grow pale yellow feathers all over her back, breast, and sides; her head has changed to pale brown instead of black. By the side of the cock she looks quite yellow. She is in perfect health; I think the change began in January. They are in an unheated out-door aviary, where they have spent two winters.

General Notes: At the present time (October 3rd), I have two young Gouldian Finches in the nest, also two Black-cheeked Lovebirds, and one Long-tailed Grassfinch—an Olive Finch, laid to-day. The Cordon Bleus laid, but the eggs were infertile. The Orange-breasted Ground Thrush sang beautifully, and last month I bought a hen, hoping to breed them next year. I wish some member would say if they can be wintered out of doors. I see one of our members has successfully reared one young bird* and I hope he will write his experience.

*It is the Orange-headed Ground Thrush (*G. citrina*) which has successfully reared one young bird in Mr. H. D. Astley's aviary this season. I presume Miss Hawke's birds are of this species, though the White-throated Ground Thrush (*G. cyanonotus*) has an orange breast, but can be easily distinguished from the former species by its black facial markings. Both these species can be wintered out of doors if their aviary has a weather-proof shelter attached, and in a northern county it would be wise to shut them in the shelter at night, driven them in, if need be.—Ed.

Pennant x Rosella Parrakeet Hybrids, etc.

By J. Sumner Marriner.

When in May last I sent you my notes as to nesting results, which you paid me the unexpected compliment of printing as a separate article in the June number under the head of "Freely Imported Species and their Treatment," I said that I was then watching with much interest the doings of what I then regarded as Pennant and Rosella pairs respectively.

Even then, however, I was already doubtful as to their pairing correctly, since I had noticed the cock Pennant feeding one of the Rosellas, and it certainly seemed as if these two birds at any rate were going to cross breed, leaving the other Pennant supposed to be a cock, and the other Rosella supposed to be a hen, probably as I anticipated at cross purposes.

The results were however better and more interesting than I anticipated, for very shortly after I found greatly to my surprise the other Rosella was missing, and on searching for it I discovered that this bird had actually gone to nest in a trade nest box; that the other supposed hen Pennant was constantly beside this box, and generally my beliefs as to the four birds had to be entirely re-modelled—instead of pairs of each it was plain that I had in fact two cock Pennants and two hen Rosellas.

The other Rosella was plainly mating with the other (original) cock Pennant, as he was often feeding her in the open tower or raised square wire flight, and I expected she would finally nest in an oyster tub there suspended, which they had been constantly in and out of for some weeks.

However, one day this Rosella also was again in her turn missing, and to my surprise she wasn't in the oyster tub or anywhere else that I could find. I very quietly and carefully searched for her, without avail; but, finding two broken eggs under the nest box already occupied by the other Rosella I feared trouble. After waiting a week or two it was quite plain that both Rosellas were sitting together in the same nest box. How they managed, or on what they sat, I could not tell, as they were never off together, and very rarely either of them. Both the Penants seemed contented to divide the honour of attending on the inmates of the joint establishment.

The only course was to follow the now hackneyed advice of the Prime Minister to "wait and see." This I did, with the not unsatisfactory result that just about the end of July three young birds emerged from the nest box at short intervals.

They are plainly hybrids, two of them I fancy are hens, being quieter birds both in colouring and demeanour, and are very like the Rosellas but all three birds are larger and have much more blue about them than a Rosella, being blue where the Rosella is white under the cheeks, and much bluer than the Rosella in the flight feathers and tail, and generally all the colouring is more vivid and clearly defined than in the Rosella.

The three hybrids are strong healthy birds; and I think will moult into very handsome specimens. I propose to keep them for a while to develop their more adult plumage. Mr. Camps, our Parrakeet advisor, to whom I wrote about them, kindly recommends me to send them to the Palace Show in February, but I have never shown yet, and the birds are, and seem likely to remain, as wild as hawks.

I bought the four parent birds in the spring of 1910, the Rosellas together as a pair, and the Pennants separately as a cock and a hen. The one Pennant, that I regarded as the hen, was certainly until this breeding season much lighter in colouring than the other, and I could then distinguish them easily. Now, I can hardly do so. I think this must have been an immature bird when purchased.

My other birds, it may be recalled, were respective pairs each of Redrumps, Cockateels, and Black-checked Lovebirds. All have reared young. Thus, including the three hybrids from the joint establishment, all my five pairs have been successful.

Red-rump Parrakeets: Since May the Redrumps have nested again and produced three young, of which one died in the nest; one, a cock, was fully reared (recently sold), the third, a hen, died some three weeks out of the nest. This is, I think the third hen these birds have hatched and reared out of the nest, last year and this; and all have died some three weeks after leaving the nest; I think it is when the old birds cease to feed; and another time I shall take them indoors some two weeks after they leave the nest; but, I do not see why it should always be the hens that die as has been the case with mine. I have reared all the male Red-rumps leaving the nests. Can any reader suggest a reason? This makes three young birds, from this pair of Redrumps, reared this year and sold.

Cockateels: The pair of Cockateels have continued their wonderful record of fecundity and successful rearing of their young. Since, and up to the end of July they had laid 22 eggs, hatched out 18 young, and successfully reared them all. I have disposed of all of them.

As soon as the last brood left the nest at the end of July, the hen laid another clutch of five eggs, but something disturbed her, I think one of the Pennants, and she deserted. Then almost directly she laid four eggs, when the tub fell down as she sat, and the eggs were broken. Now she has laid another four eggs, ana again deserted. This makes 35 eggs laid, and 18 young reared by one pair of Cockateels in nine months. I am not selling this pair!

Black-cheeked Lovebirds: These were kept in a large cage by themselves; the cage stood in the garden, and I had almost despaired of any success with them. The hen had been industriously building and incubating two clutches of eggs, of four or five each, up to the end of July, but all were infertile. Then she laid again early in August, and greatly to my surprise I found the other day that she had two young ones, from a clutch of four eggs, the chicks being some eight or ten days old; and I hope these will be fully reared. I think this pair must have been last year's birds, and probably immature early in the season. I find Black-cheeks quite impossible to identify at any time by their appearance or to sex. They are extremely shy birds and rather uninteresting, but I personally admire their wonderfully brilliant apple green bodies with the curiously blended black to russet brown colouring of their heads and cheeks, but I find they do not greatly appeal to most people.

I was particularly pleased to find these birds had hatched out young, as it completes a quintuple success in breeding from all my five pairs, if, as I think I may credit the Pennant x Rosella Hybrids to both pairs of the joint establishment.

Subject to survivorship, I propose to continue next year with the same stock as this, but dividing the two Pennant Rosella pairs, if I can only distinguish the respective mates.

Breeding of Green Cardinals.

By Gerald E. Rattigan.

I turned the Green Cardinals into a small out-door aviary (10ft square), about the first of May, with a few other birds, viz.: Pairs of Hawfinches, Goldfinches, Blue Grosbeaks, Black-headed Siskins, and two pairs of Zebra Finches.

The Cardinals started building operations almost at once, a Hartz-travelling-cage hung against the wires of the aviary—about eight feet from the ground—being the chosen site.

Both birds took part in the building operations, the nest being completed in about a week. The outside of the nest was constructed with fir twigs, and lined, first with hay, and then with moss, it was very compactly and strongly built.

The clutch consisted of three blue eggs, dotted with a few black spots, a replica of a Thrush's egg but smaller. The first egg was laid on May 18th, and incubation commenced the same day. During the period of incubation, which lasted fourteen days, the cock displayed no interest in the proceedings, and never appeared to relieve the hen on the nest.

The first egg hatched on June 3rd, and the other two on subsequent days. With the hatching of the first egg there was a great change in the demeanour of the cock, he became, if possible, even more attentive than the hen, to the needs of his family, and was ever on the prowl for tit-bits.

The young birds grew apace and flourished exceedingly, as indeed they could hardly fail to have done with such attentive parents, and were fed entirely on ants' "eggs," supplemented with a few mealworms, which I supplied twice a day morning and evening. All went well for about ten days, when one morning the old birds sitting disconsolately about, were not going near the nest. Of course there could only be one reason for such behaviour and on looking into the nest found, as I expected that the young were dead. This disaster was caused by the forgetfulness of my aviary boy, who had apparently forgotten to supply the birds with the second instalment of ants' "eggs" on the previous afternoon, and the young had consequently starved to death.

It was really very disappointing and provoking, but one has many such disappointments when endeavouring to breed birds and grows gradually resigned to them. However, I am glad to say that in this case the disappointment was but temporary and my hopes were soon raised again by the prompt re-commencement of nesting operations.

The second nest was constructed on the top of a nest-box (a pair of Zebra Finches were busy rearing a family inside), in a similar position to the previous nest and about nine feet from the ground. This nest was much more bulky than the first one, but the materials used were similar.

On July 1st the nest contained four eggs. Soon after this there were one or two heavy thunderstorms, and as the nest was in an uncovered position, I sought to help them by having the wire above it covered with matting, to save, it, if possible, from the effects of the deluge. The hen, however, did not at all approve of my assistance, and for two days absolutely deserted the nest. She then, I suppose, decided to put up with the nuisance, and re-commenced her incubating duties, though I had small hope of any result, as incubation had commenced before all this occurred, and I felt convinced the eggs were spoiled. These fears, however, proved groundless, and to my great surprise, on July 17th, I saw her feeding young birds. On July 30th, the first youngster left the nest, followed at intervals by three others, the last leaving the nest on August 1st.

A very satisfactory result! The fertility of the birds I considered remarkable, for every egg of the two clutches (seven in all) hatched out. The hen certainly is not a young bird, for she was adult when I bought her three years ago.

The parent birds were supplied with soft food, live ants' "eggs," wasp grubs, and a few mealworms, but on this occasion, the young were reared almost entirely on wasp grubs.

The parents proved to be more devoted to their young than has been the case with any other species I have bred. Especially does this apply to the male parent, who continued to feed and generally look after his progeny long after the hen had ceased to notice them. He was still feeding them about the middle of September, when I removed them to another aviary. Here, two of them unfortunately died, but the remaining couple are still very healthy, vigorous, and extremely tame.

At time of writing (October 7) the young are still in nestling plumage. They have the crest well developed when they leave the nest, the plumage is lighter and greyer than that of the adult female and is spotted beneath with large grey spots.

Green Cardinals are, I think, a very attractive species, and I strongly recommend them to anyone commencing to keep foreign birds. Their song does not count for much, and in this respect they are inferior to the Red-crested, but on the other hand, they are not nearly so spiteful as the latter species, and from my experience, I should say are quite easy to breed.

Just a word of warning! Do not associate them with any species of Yellow Weaver, or according to my experience there is bound to be trouble.

Other Nesting Results: I have reared young of the following species, all of which are still alive and doing well:

2 Diamond Doves.	10 to 12 Zebra Finches.
2 Red-billed Weavers	2 Grey-headed and Cape Sparrows.
4 Saffron Finches.	6 Budgerigars.

Red-billed Weavers: These bred in a crowded aviary—this, I think, is a rather unusual occurrence. [Quite so, a detailed account would be of general interest.—Ed.]

Zebra Finches: These commenced breeding quite late in the season, but once they made up their minds to set up housekeeping, went at it with a will—result, 10 to 12 youngsters fully reared.

Saffron Finches: The four young fully reared were from three different nests, most of the youngsters were killed by a Shama on leaving the nest.

Budgerigars: These did very badly with me this year and I also lost a great many through fighting.

The above, with the exception of a few Canaries, is my total for 1911.

By the way, it may be of interest to mention that one Canary has young in the nest, at time of writing (October 7), with every appearance of being successfully reared, though she is now in full moult, and "cuts a very sorry figure."

Book Notices and Reviews.

The Birds of the British Islands. By Chas. Stonham, C.M.G., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S., with illustrations by L. M. Medland, F.Z.S. Parts XVIII, XIX, and XX.—Roy. Quarto.—Grant Richards, Limited.

With these three parts the publication of this modern ornithological classic comes to an end, and it is almost superfluous to say—in view of our opinion of the foregoing instalments—that the subscribers to Mr. Stonham's work can regard themselves as happy in possessing the best written, the best illustrated, and generally the best "got up" text book on its subject that will be issued for many years to come.

As an instance of its completeness one only has to say that both the Scientific and the English indices are arranged on the fullest "cross" principle; that the Glossary of Synonyms and Local Names occupies no fewer than fifty pages of double columns; and that there is an appended Bibliography of about 300 books under the name of Mr W. H. Mullens, M.A., L.L.M., a name, we believe, not unknown in the world of libraries and librarians.

With reference to this last we read :—"In all cases the short titles and dates have been taken from the books themselves, and where differences occur between the particulars here given and those supplied by such well known Bibliographies as Engelmann (*Bibliotheca Historico-Naturalis*, 1846), Carus and Engelmann (*Bibliotheca Zoologica* 1861) and in the continuation of this work by O. Taschenberg, Strickland (*Bibliography Zoologie* 1850—1852), and Eliot Coues (*Ornithological Bibliography* 1879—1880), such differences may be accepted as additions or corrections."

The medical profession is to be congratulated on having added Mr. Stonham to its already long line of naturalist observers and writers, and Mr. Stonham himself upon having "discovered" a truly accomplished artist in Miss Medland.

Canaries, Hybrids, and British Birds in Cage and Aviary. By various specialists, edited by S. H. Lewer; with eighteen coloured plates by A. F. Lydon, and E. F. Bailey, and other illustrations. Bound in green cloth with gilt edges. London, Cassell, and Co., 15s. net.

We have already favourably reviewed the separate parts of this practical and comprehensive work as issued, and the perusal of the complete volume, clearly printed on art paper, with its excellent photo-reproductions, and beautiful coloured plates, more than confirm our previous notices. It is practical and comprehensive, no feature is overlooked—the bird-room, out and in-door aviaries, history of the Canary, every variety of Canary, British Birds (dealt with in groups), and Hybrids, are exhaustively dealt with, and their feeding, breeding, general treatment, and exhibition, fully and ably described by various specialists. No one who is interested in the keeping of Canaries, British Birds and Hybrids can fail to appreciate this book, or to profit by its contents, for it is the Fancier's *vade mecum*.

We confidently recommend our readers to add this book to the shelf containing their aviary literature.

Editorial.

Breeding of Eclectus Parrot: On the 17th of October a young Eclectus was hatched out in Miss Drummond's aviary (Errol, N.B.) and on the 19th it was still doing well—this pair of birds have got as far as eggs on more than one occasion in the past. We trust the young bird will be fully reared*.

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*On November 4th we learn that the squab fell out of the log, being then three weeks old, and well developed. A most disappointing sequel to a notable event.

NESTING NOTES: Mr. Nicolson informs me that he has ten young Gouldian Finches (none for sale) still living, and that Zebra Finches, White Javas, and Cutthroats, have all done well. Cordon Bleus hatched out but the young disappeared when about a week old. Tanagers and other softbills made no attempt to nest.

Mr. Mathias, who has had quite a successful season with species he has kept. Writing on October 29th, he states young Cubans have just left their parents, and a brood of Olive Finches are about ready to do so. A brood of Pileated Finches perished in a recent gale of wind and rain. Cordon Bleus are feeding a brood of young. Two pairs of Black-cheeks are incubating and young Yellow Budgerigars are leaving the nest daily—these added to the results we have already published, should leave our esteemed member with little cause for dis-satisfaction.

DEALERS AND POPULAR NAMES: Dr. P. Gosse writes suggesting the compilation of a list—the idea is a distinctly practical one, and a list, as complete as possible, arranged alphabetically would be generally useful. Such a list would take some little time to compile, and it would need the general assistance of members to make it a success. We will arrange and put it in order, and add there-to according to opportunity, such names as are sent in. We hope members will send in lists of such names at their early convenience, quoting genera and species if possible, as well as the popular or dealer's name. We strongly urge all who can, to assist and to send in their lists by an early date.

CLUB MEDALS: These are not granted either where the young are hand-fed, or partially hand-fed, or reared by foster-parents. In such cases a club certificate recording the facts will be awarded, but this will not invalidate the next claim for the same species duly reared by its own parents. "Breeding" is to be interpreted in the same manner as applied to wild species—parasitic species must, of course, have foster-parents.

THE GREY FINCH (*Spermophila grisea*). Both Mr. W. E. Teschemaker and Mr. W. T. Page have bred this species, apparently simultaneously, but neither have dates or notes—

the young not being observed till they were on the wing, and commencing to come into colour—a certificate will be awarded recording the above details.

The claims upon our space being very heavy this month, other notes are held over till next issue.

BRITISH BIRDS.

Bird Life Through the Camera.

By H. Willford.

(*Continued from page* 314, *Vol. I., N.S.*

The Sky-lark (*Alavda arvensis, Linn.* This favourite songster is plentiful throughout the British Islands, and is a common cage pet, gladdening many a narrow street, or backyard, with its gladsome and tuneful melody, while those privileged to hear it, *i.e.* to hear the fulsome abandon of its lay as it soars above its nesting mate, listen enraptured and entranced. Fortunately this is not only reserved for those resident in the country, for this grand songster is still found in close proximity to most towns. How it gladdens the countryside, and with what ecstacies young and old alike listen to the carolling speck above them. It is so well known as to call for no description, but the adult male is 6¾ inches in length; the crown of the head is rich brown, back of neck, back, and wings, chestnut-brown, all the feathers of these parts being edged with a lighter shade of same hue; underparts pale buff spotted with dark brown on throat, chest, and breast.

Female: Smaller and less brilliant in colour.

The photos illustrating these notes, are three of a series I obtained this year, taken by means of a hiding tent, on some rough ground near Haven-street, I. of W. and I gleaned and deduced the following notes from my experiences. The nest, as is customary, was in the open field. At the same the site seems always chosen where there is something slight to shade the nest, in this instance the photo shows a sprig of bramble, the leaves of which shaded the nest (*see photo*). This constitutes one of the difficulties of securing photos of this species, the nest must be more or less opened up and they *will not sit in the sun.*

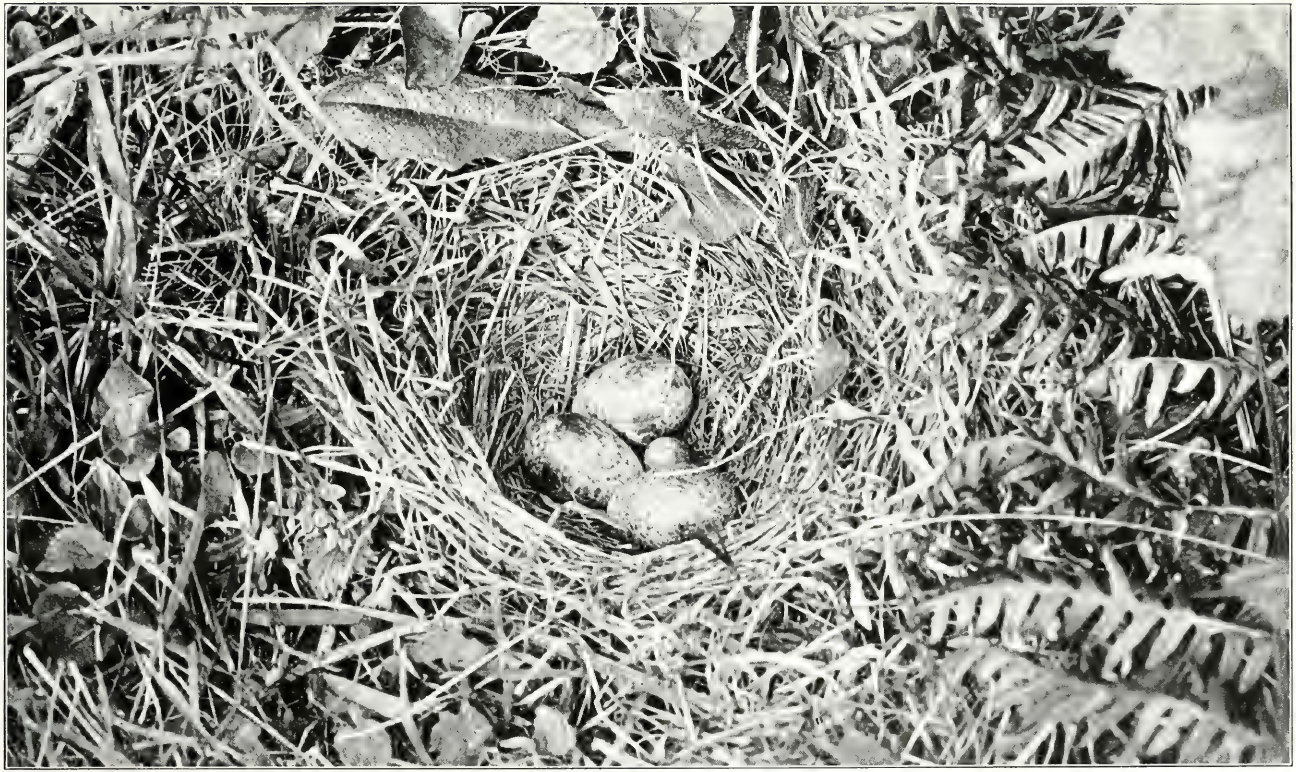


Photo by H. Willford.

Nest and Eggs of Skylark.

Note: Contains three eggs of normal size and one about size of pea.

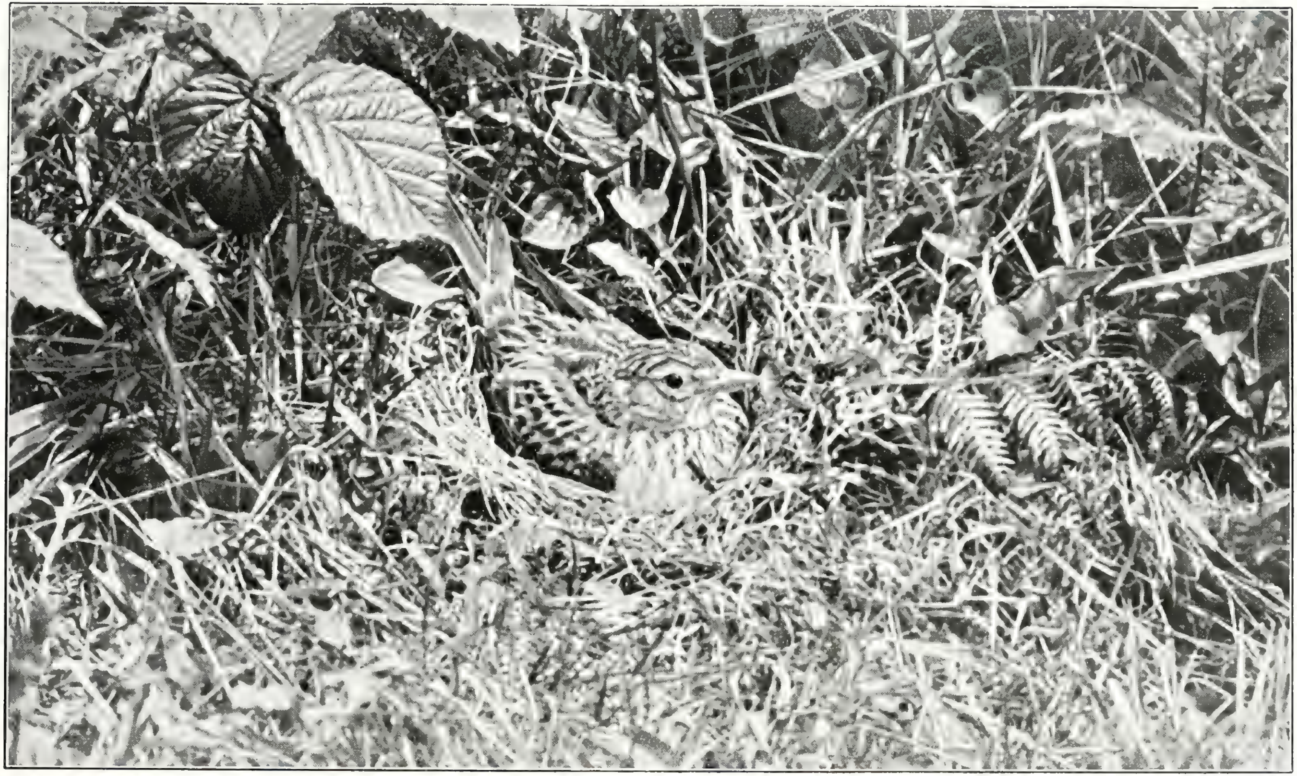


Photo by H. Willford.

Hen Skylark Incubating.

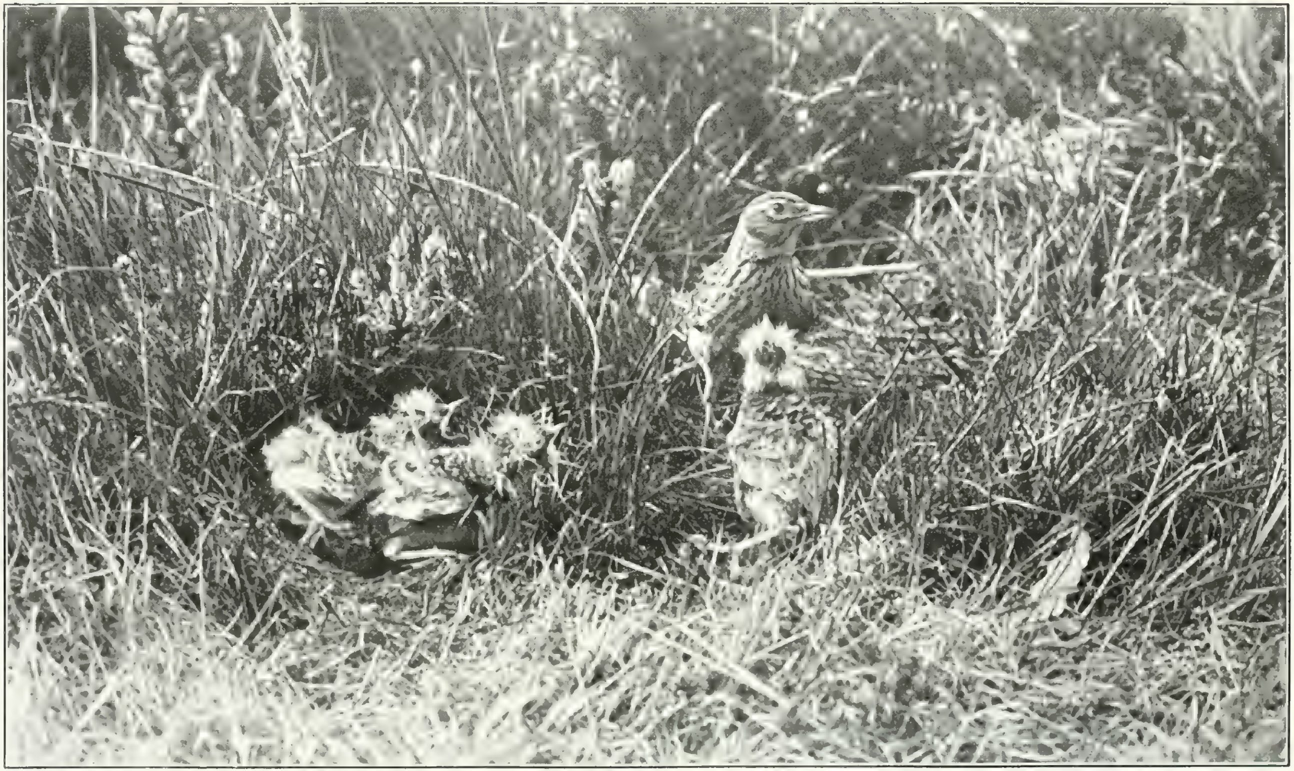


Photo by H. Willford.

Young Skylarks rushing out of nest for food.

Their craft not to betray site of nest was very apparent,—mostly alighting some forty feet away, gradually creeping up to it, over and under the grass. Whichever point the nest was approached from their procedure was invariably the same and I watched them with great interest.

In this nest, the second of the season, I was much interested to find three eggs of normal size and one, but little larger than a pea—comparative sizes can be clearly seen in photo.

The cock feeds his incubating mate.

The young are fed every ten or fifteen minutes by both parents, chiefly with grubs, in only one instance have I seen a winged insect (such as moths) carried to the young. In the photo of the young rushing out of the nest—the one farthest away has been fed, and the others are shown coming out for their share.

I wondered while watching them how it was that the parents coming to feed hardly ever fed the same chick twice—the reason appeared to me to be that provender brought at each visit was not sufficient to go round—the most persistent chick got the food, and those most recently fed were not so persistent as the rest. Though mostly all gaped with each visit careful observation showed that the same chick did not get fed on consecutive visits.

Method of feeding: The parent crawls or sneaks up to the nest, and if all appears to be clear proceeds to distribute the prey he has gathered—the grub is dabbed as it were into the beak several times before it is in a position to be swallowed. At any rate the procedure conveys that impression, for in no case did I see a grub placed in the beak (gape) and swallowed straight away.

Practically at every visit the parents take away excreta, in fact appear loth to go away without.

As soon as the young begin to get fairly feathered they leave the nest in the daytime, wandering about in its vicinity, but returning to the nest at night for some days.

Parents sing when coming with food and when in the hiding tent waiting for the critical moment to make the exposure, you hear the singing cease, then you know they are coming towards the nest, or have reached it.

The male does not only sing overhead, but will pitch on a bush or twig near the ground and continue his lay.

The Sky-lark is well-known in captivity and has been bred on several occasions both in cage and aviary.

As regards diet, a good soft food mixture, a small piece of turf, and some live insects, with a little Canary-seed occasionally, and opportunity to take a dust bath will about suffice for its needs, if properly housed.

(*To be continued*).

Stray Notes.

Sir,—Last month I had the following birds brought to me from rather unusual sources:

Landrail, picked up on a door-step.

Water-rail, caught in a drawing-room.

Dottrel, with damaged wing, evidently through flying against a telegraph wire.

WALTER SWAYSLAND.

Marked Birds.

Sir,—In reply to Miss Pithie's interesting account of the Blue Tit that flew into her room, and which she found to be marked with a ring, I may say that it was one that I had marked this summer, when young in a nesting box. Symington, where Miss Pithie lives, is about seven miles from here. It is a curious coincidence that a bird marked by one member of the club should be found by another. Altogether this spring and summer I marked between five and six hundred birds, mostly young in the nest, with the Aberdeen University Migration Inquiry Rings. This marking of birds will, it is hoped, help to solve the great question of migration of birds, of which so little is really known.

If any members of our Club would like to help by marking birds, they should write to T. T. Landsborough Thompson, Esq., Bird Migration Inquiry, The University, Aberdeen, who is at the head of the Inquiry, and who will, I feel sure, be glad of more markers.

Beaulieu, Hants. PHILIP GOSSE.

Birds in and about the Station.

By Captain G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(Continued from page 257).

Mynahs, etc : We do not get any of the Talking Mynahs or Grackles, but it may not be out of place to remark that more Mynahs are killed by over-feeding in captivity than by anything else. Oates states that they feed entirely on fruit, never descending to the ground.

The Rosy Starling or Pastor (*Pastor roseus*) is a well known bird at home, though probably seldom seen in full colour as rose is a colour that departs from birds in captivity. There have been exceptions; Mr. Teschemaker had a Pink-browed Rose-finch which regained its colour, and I myself have had Redpolls which did the same; they were kept in an exposed outdoor aviary all the year round. As a station bird the Rosy Pastor is rather a fraud, as I have only seen it twice passing through in some numbers early in May during a period of twelve years.

Small flocks of Starlings pass just below the Station in spring and autumn, probably *Sturnus menzbieri*, but they may be *S. humii* or *porphyronotus* or all three. Anyhow they are not very interesting.

The Black-headed Mynah (*Temenuchus pagodarum*) is a not uncommon summer visitor. A few years ago it was extremely rare—I had been some years in the Station before seeing one at all. Now, there are four small colonies fairly close, two of which only started last year. It is evidently a bird that does not mean to become extinct and a good thing, too. It breeds in May and June, with us I do not think it attempts anything later. The nest and eggs are of starling type, as might be expected. It is chiefly a ground feeder, It is such a handsome bird and at the same time such a common one, that I wonder it is not more often seen at home. The beak alone would attract attention, being bright blue at the base, then greenish with a yellow tip, The iris is greenish white and the legs bright yellow. I give Oates' description in full.

> "Head from forehead to nape with crest black; sides of the head, side and back of the neck, and the whole of the lower

plumage as far as the vent rich buff, the feathers of the back of the neck, throat, and breast, much elongated and with the shafts pale; vent, thighs, and under tail-coverts white; whole upper plumage (except the parts already described) the wing-coverts, tertiaries (?), and secondaries grey, a few of the feathers of the back with buff shalt-streaks; primaries and primary-coverts black; the former tipped with grey; tail brown, broadly tipped with white; the middle pair of feathers wholly greyish brown with black shafts."

Length 8.5 inches, tail 3.

To be Continued.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent: this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

It would greatly help me to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. were in sending me dead birds to state the source they obtained the birds from and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

Amethyst-rumped Sunbird. (A. C. Young, Newcastle-on-Tyne). This bird was very much emaciated and died from the effects of pneumonia.

Cordon Bleu (♂). (John Sherard Reeves, Leadenham, Ho., Lincolnshire). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Cordon Bleu. (♂) (Mrs. Jack, Sidcup). Cause of death, apoplexy.

Waxbill. (J. Wallan, Alnwick). Cause of death, "fits."

Waxbill. (Rev. J. A. T. L. Beazor, South Lincs.) Cause of death, jaundice. Don't expose such birds to draught in open window.

Waxbill. (Miss M. Greeven, Hyde Park, W.) Cause of death, "fits."

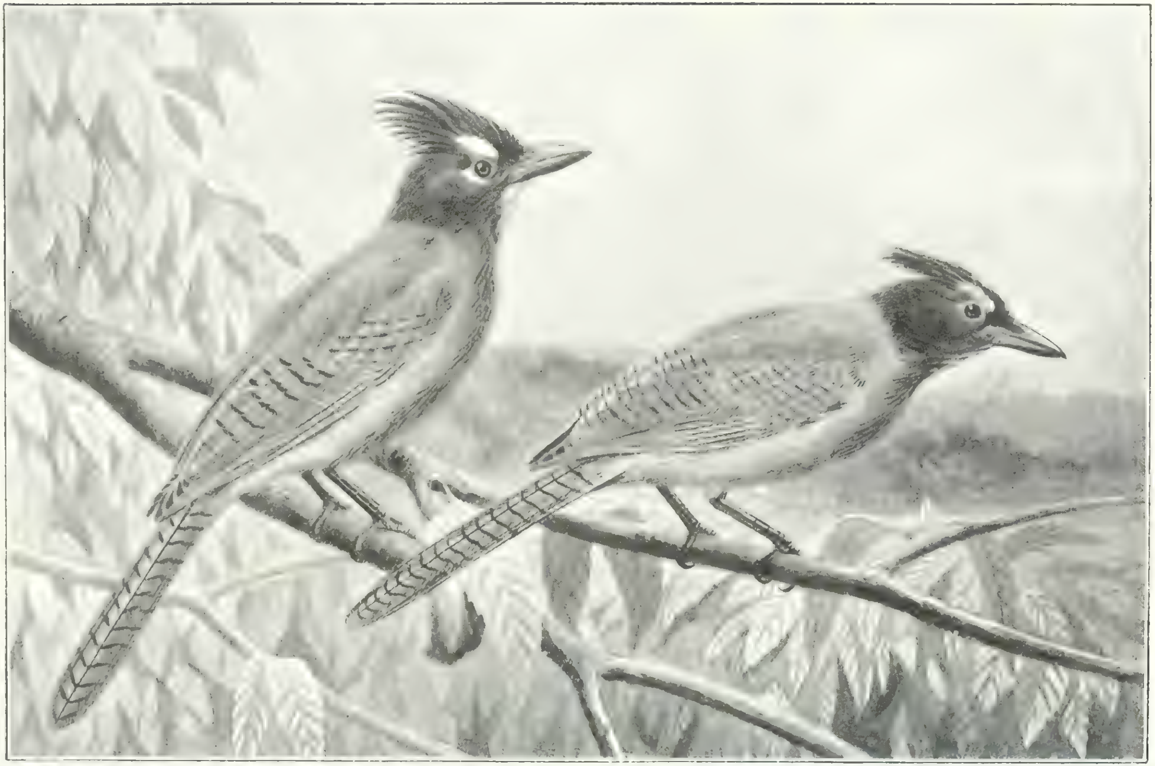
Parson Finch. (Sydney Whitmore, Pemberton Ho., Doughty Street, W.C.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Canary and Cut-throat. (Lady Webster, Battle, Sussex). Both birds died from pneumonia.

Pennant Parrakeet (♀). (Wm. Shore Baily, Westbury, Wilts.) The cause of death was pneumonia. The wing had been fractured some time or the other. The joint was ankylosed or stiff.

Answered by post:—Richard Bright, Lady Kathleen Pilkington, L. L. Southcombe, H. Snarey.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



From life by H. Goodchild.

Crowned Jays (*Cyanocitta diademata*).

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The L.C.B.A. Show.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

The Foreign and British sections were a huge success both as regards conditions, rarity, and numbers. The Foreign Section being especially well represented, though the Parrot and Lory section was not so strong as usual; the entry in the class for common species being a record one, viz., 23, with only one absentee. I am not attempting a report in this issue, just merely a mention of some of the more notable exhibits, as a full report will appear in next issue.

One of the rarest birds in the show I take to be Mr. Townsend's Palish Blue Sugarbird, which is either *Dacnis nigripes* or *D. angelica*, I rather think the latter, owing to its small size, though the catalogue description of *nigripes*, is the closer of the two to Mr. Townsend's bird, the latter, however, is certainly much smaller than the well known *D. cayana*. Comparatively speaking it appears fully one third smaller than the Blue Sugarbird (*D. cayana*), has smaller black areas, and the blue is of a much lighter shade, in fact a totally different hue.

The Long-crested Mexican Jays, exhibited by Mons. Pauvvels, are a very rare and beautiful pair of birds, and like the above are new to the English show bench. (*Vide plate*).

A better and less cumbersome name for this species would be Crowned Jays, and I have given them this title on plate. At the show I took them to be *Cyanocitta coronata*, owing to the absence of any greenish tinge on the birds' upper plumage, but despite this variation a careful comparison of skins proved them to be *C. diademata*.

This pair of birds differ from the description in the B.M. Cat. in lacking the greenish tinge on its upper plumage. Above it is purplish-greyish-blue, with distinct washes of cobalt on the rump and upper tail-coverts; the tail feathers are darker and strongly washed with ultramarine; the wings also are impregnated with iridescent ultramarine, and the greater coverts and inner secondaries distinctly barred with black, the primaries and secondaries being a rich cobalt hue; head and crest ultramarine-blue, forecrown bright blue; lores and sides of face black, with a largish white spot above the eye, and a smaller one below; the cheeks and ear coverts strongly washed with blue; chin greyish-white; remainder of undersurface palish cobalt, washed with purplish on the throat and chest; bill and legs black. Total length 11½ inches, tail 5½. The female is smaller, slightly duller, the upper eye-spot is smaller than that of the male, and she has no white spot below the eye.

It is a native of Mexico. Further notes held over till next issue.

Monsieur Pauvvels also exhibited a very fine specimen of Count Raggi's Bird of Paradise, and it had, in its roomy cage, ample opportunity to display its ornamental plumes and richly coloured plumage. Mr. Ezra exhibited an Amethyst-rumped Sunbird, which for condition, brilliancy and colour, could not be surpassed by the birds at liberty in their native wilds. The cage, too, was of an excellent design, all wire, but over the top and round the back and ends was a glass screen, ensuring the bird abundance of light and freedom from draught.

Mr. Townsend's exhibit—the Common Kingfisher—was new to the show bench, and a most interesting and beautiful bird, its rich brown, white and azure blue being strikingly and beautifully arranged. The Hon. Mrs. Bourke's Purple Sugarbird was beautifully staged, the interior of the cage being garnished with sprays of yellow orchids, the bird looking very beautiful and natural amid such surroundings.

Another interesting exhibit was a hybrid Azure Tit (*Parus pleski x cyanuas*), this was a wild hybrid and about equally favoured both its parents. Two Zebra Finch x Silverbill hybrids were also staged, these were described as Zebra Waxbill x Silverbill, but their parentage was quite clear, both parents being equally favoured, but the chestnut sides and ear coverts of the Zebra Finch will be much more distinct after the next moult.

The Fairy Blue Bird (*Irena turcosa*), also exhibited by M. Pauvvels, is well named; the intensity of the hue of its blue and black plumage, shone with an iridescence beyond the power of words to describe—this species has not previously been seen on the show bench.

The Japanese and Loo-choo Robins exhibited by Mrs. K. Leslie Miller and also by Mr. Ezra were very interesting and altogether charming birds, the former being new to the show bench.

The following beautiful and rare species were all staged in excellent condition and plumage:

Jackson's Whydah.
Rainbow Bunting.
Black-cheeked Cardinal.
Black and Yellow Grosbeaks.
Blue and Black Tanager.
Gold and Green Tanager.
Emerald Spotted Tanager.
Amethyst-rumped Sunbird.
Purple Sunbird.
Indian White-eye (bred in captivity)
Blue-winged Fruitsucker.
Banana Quit.
Jerdon's Fruitsucker (♀).
Yellow-cheeked Hill-Tit.
Verditer Flycatcher.
Dusky Thrush.
Coppersmith Barbet.
Blue-throated Flycatcher.
Mexican Trogan.
Indian Kingfisher.
Common Indian Redstart.
Count Raggi's Bird of Paradise.
Fairy Blue Bird.
Fire-tailed Finches.
Orange-breasted Fruit-Pigeons.
Purple Sugar Bird.

Through the necessity of going to press early, owing to indices, it is impossible to give more than the above glossary; but a full review will be given in our next issue.

Mr. H. D. Astley judged, and had a most difficult and arduous task.

The Sonneberg Aviaries (U.S.A.)

By Lee S. Crandall,
Assistant Curator of Birds.

The following article, reprinted from the *Zoological Society Bulletin* of the New York Zoological Society, September, 1911, will, we feel sure, be of general interest to our readers, as indicating methods and success of American aviculturists.—Ed.

Aviculture has never been a popular pursuit in America; and just why not, is rather difficult to say. It is not lack of interest in captive living birds, for thousands of Canaries and large numbers of more interesting species, are imported annually by the two or three dealers who monopolize the greater part of the trade. Unfortunately, very many of the persons who purchase these songsters possess only the rudiments of knowledge of their proper care. Their avian interests are generally confined to the one or two individuals which chance has brought into their hands, and rarely lead them to engage more extensively in bird-keeping.

There is another factor, however, which, undoubtedly has had as much influence in bringing about this condition. As wild birds near at hand are the ones most apt to be caged by beginners, the passage of certain bird-protection laws has had the unfortunate effect of reducing to a minimum the possibility that the first impulse toward this fascinating study might be received from the keeping of native birds in captivity. As a result, American aviculture is confined to the public zoological parks and gardens, and the collections of a very few private individuals, whose numbers, happily, are now increasing.

Among the larger of the private establishments is that of Mrs. Frederick Ferris Thompson, at Canandaigua, New York, which may well be regarded as a model for its kind. "Sonneberg" is an estate of very considerable extent, about fifty-two acres being walled in to form the home grounds. These have been developed very successfully, along unusually artistic lines. The aviaries are open to the public on every Saturday afternoon from two until five o'clock, and the entire park is likewise open on the second and fourth Fridays of July, August and September. Thousands of people from Canandaigua and neighbouring towns take advantage of this hospitality, and enjoy the grounds on those days.

The aviaries occupy an area of about one acre. They had their inception in one of less pretentious dimensions which Mrs. Thompson saw in California. The first of the buildings, known as "The Aviary," was built in 1902, and the Pheasant Aviary, which completes the construction originally planned, was completed in 1909. The houses include the large Aviary, the Jay House, the Parrot House, the hospital adjoining, and the Pheasant Aviary. On July 21, 1911, the collection consisted of 891 birds representing 246 species.

The Aviary contains an indoor space of fifty by twenty-seven feet, with an attached flying cage thirty feet high by fifty feet in diameter. Exclusive of this, there are offices, an observation room, and a small museum as yet undeveloped. The house is built of wood and cement, the roof, one end and the side toward the flight cage being entirely of glass, which is protected by one-half-inch diamond.mesh wire. Numerous roof ventilators and the openings for flight allow the free circulation of air that is necessary to offset the heating effect of the large expanse of glass.

In winter, warmth is provided by hot-water pipes, which encircle the room at a height of about six feet. These are protected by eighteen-inch shelves, which, being covered with sand, form convenient resting places for the birds. The cement floor is carpeted with sand and has in its centre a fountain, the pool of which measures four feet by five. Nest boxes are attached to the walls in convenient positions, and in one of these a single pair of Black-cheeked Love-birds has reared nine young.

The attached Flying Cage is dome-shaped, the lower portion being covered with one-half inch bar-mesh wire with the transversals four inches apart, the upper part with one-half-inch diamond-mesh wire. Water is supplied in a pool twelve feet by five, the depth gradually increasing to sixteen inches. No living trees are included; but hemp, millet and canary plants form a dense mass which it has been necessary to clear in spaces. It has been found best to clip the tips of the hemp before the seeds mature, as these might have an injurious effect if eaten too freely by the birds.

In this miniature jungle, Bob-white and Plumed Quail were nesting, and as the place was disturbed as little as possible, it may be that other nests were hidden in the dense tangle. Small, thick-topped trees are placed at frequent intervals; and one of these contained sixteen completed nests of various species of weavers. It may be added, however, that fertile eggs are rarely laid by these over-zealous builders.

This aviary and flying cage contained no less than 600 of very diverse species. Breeding results have been quite remarkable, when the size of the community is considered, for the following young have been reared to maturity: California Quail, Bar-shouldered Dove, (*Geopelia humeralis*), Scaly Dove, Wood Duck, Cockateel, Black-faced Love-bird, Undulated Grass Parrakeet, Yellow Grass Parrakeet, Saffron Finch, Gray Java Sparrow, White Java Sparrow, Cutthroat Finch, and Zebra Finch.

Among the large number of birds kept in this installation, it is highly regrettable that so few are of native species. A few specimens of the more common Finches, a Cowbird, and some Mourning Doves complete the list of those on hand at the time of the writer's visit. The cause is not traceable to a dearth of available species in the wild state, but to the fact that American aviculturists who are privileged to keep indigenous birds are compelled to depend upon their own resources for securing specimens. Too stringent protection laws do not favour the development of expert bird-catchers, without whose aid the formation or maintenance of a large collection of native birds is a practical impossibility.

The exotics confined in the Aviary, however, included a number of unusual species. The rarest was undoubtedly the Indian Spur-winged Plover, (*Hoplopterus spinosus*). This bird, while common enough throughout the Indian Peninsula, is undoubtedly uncommon in captivity, and the single specimen at Sonneberg is probably unique in America. The series of Whydahs was uncommonly good, including Pin-tail, (*Vidua serena*), Paradise, (*Steganura paradisea*), Red-collared, (*Coliostruthus ardens*), Giant, (*Diatropura progne*), Yellow-backed, (*Penthetriopsis macrura*) and Red-shouldered, (*Urobrachya axillaris*). The Gray-headed and Cape Sparrows, (*Passer diffusus* and *P. arcuatus*), were the best of the *Fringillidae,* while the Triangular-spotted and Bare-eyed Pigeons, (*Columba guinea* and *C. gymnopthalma*), were in faultless condition and plumage. It may be noted in passing that while Pigeons offered by dealers as *Columba guinea* are almost invariably the dark-rumped species, *C. phaeonola*, the birds in this collection were undoubtedly the first-named.

The next building is the Jay House. It is thirty-five by ten feet, sloping to six feet at the rear. It is built entirely of wood and has no adjoining flight cages. The fronts of the four compartments are so arranged as to permit their being covered with fine-mesh wire netting during the summer, and by glass for the winter, so that the inmates can always be seen from the walk which leads past the house. Here were kept Choughs, (*Graculus graculus*), Sulphur-breasted Toucans, Greater Hill Mynahs, Lanceolated Jays, (*Laletes lanceolatus*), Red-billed Blue Magpies, (*Urocissa occipitalis*), and a very fine long-tailed Glossy Starling, (*Lamprocolius caudatus*), besides several less important species. As this building is unheated, the less hardy birds are caged elsewhere during the winter.

The Parrot House is an L-shaped building, and the only one which is open to the public. It is built of wood and concrete, in the same style as the others. The six-foot public space occupies one side of each arm of the L, the first of which is fourteen feet wide and twenty feet in length. It is divided into three cages eight feet by ten, and a fourth eight feet by sixteen, all being fronted with bar-mesh wire, of varying size. The first three are devoted to Macaws, and Parrots, several uncommon species being represented. Most noticeable were the greater Vasa Parrot, (*Coracopsis vasa*), Maximilian's Parrot, (*Pionus maximiliani*), Jardine's Parrot, (*Poeocephalus gulielmi*), and a good Senegal Parrot, (*P. senegalus*). The large cage, separated from the preceding by a four-inch space, contains a very good collection of the smaller Finches and Waxbills, and other of the more delicate birds. Most of the common species of the former were represented, besides specimens of the Bicheno Finch, (*Stictoptera bichenovii*), Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, (*M. ferruginosa*). Of the fruit-eating birds, the most striking were the Yellow-bellied Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*), and the Golden-fronted Green Bulbul, (*Chloropsis aurifrons*).

In the angle of the L and also separated by a four-inch space, is the cockatoo cage. This contains all of the species commonly seen, about ten in number.

The last cage contains the Parrakeets, the pride of Sonneberg. This is really a remarkable collection, and without question one of the very best in this country, some thirty species being represented. They live together in the one large cage, preserving an unusual harmony among themselves. In this group the rarest bird was doubtless the Black-headed Parrakeet, (*Conurus nenday*). This is not uncommon in European collections but is seldom seen on this side. Others noticed were a very fine Barnard's, (*Barnardius barnardi*), a White-eared, (*Pyrrhura leucotis*), several Red-rumps, (*Psephotus haematonotus*), and a pair of Blue-bonnets, (*P. xanthorrhous*).

At the far end of the Parrot House, separated from the birds by a solid partition, is a well-equipped hospital room, a very necessary feature of all extensive collections, but too seldom provided. The floor is of concrete, so that it can be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly. Around the walls are placed cages conveniently small, and light is obtained from windows at the front.

The Pheasant Aviary completes the chain of installations. The house is of wood, with cement floors and is 100 feet long by sixteen wide. The eight cages into which it is divided open into the same number of yards, forty feet deep, well shaded by fine old apple trees and planted with grass and shrubbery. The frame-work is formed of iron piping, over which one half-inch square-mesh wire has been stretched, no provision having been made to prevent fighting between cock Pheasants in adjacent runs. Most of the common species have been or are kept, but less attention has been given to this group than to some others.

The birds have the general supervision of Mr. A. P. Wilbur, superintendent of the estate, but are under the direct care of Mr. E. A. Watts and four assistants. All of the members of the collection seemed fit and healthy, and are living evidence of the care and solicitude with which their every want has been satisfied.

Birds in and about the Station.

By Captain G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 330).

The Common Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*) is resident in the Station, and fairly common. His penchant for filling up chimneys with litter tends to make him unpopular and then too he is supposed to be good for grape vines, so his numbers do not increase unduly in this station. I believe flesh is in reality bad for vines, and anyhow the iniquitous Sparrow which is rapidly increasing, would be a better subject. As to his first fault, wire netting is a preventitive. Some years ago it was my duty to frequently visit a magazine, I suppose my visits during May and June, the Mynah breeding season and also the musketry season, were never less than a week apart. At every visit during the musketry season, was a pile of litter under a ventilation slit of about three feet in diameter, and say a foot and a half high, all the work of one pair; that pair could have brought off no young that year. It was a silly sort of place to choose to start with, and why they went on is quite beyond me. Mark Twain's Blue Jays did spot their mistake in time.

However he is not a bad bird, and occasionally makes quite a good linguist. He is practically omnivorous and is fond of waiting round cook-houses for scraps. Were he not so common out here I fancy he would be in greater demand at home. This is not a bird one could keep in an aviary in a flock. Even in a wild state, they are given to desperate combats at the beginning of the breeding season.

"Whole head, neck, and upper breast black; lower breast, flanks, sides of abdomen, and thighs rich vinous brown; upper plumage with wing-coverts, secondaries, and tertiaries brown tinged with vinous; primaries dark brown with the bases white; tail blackish, all but the median pair of feathers broadly tipped with white"

The eyelids, bill, skin about the eyes, and legs are yellow. Length about 10 inches.

(*To be continued*).

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 311).

F. ruficollis. RUFOUS-NECKED MERLIN.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L*).

One of the commonest of our small grey Hawks. They are nearly always seen in pairs and are bold, active, little beggars, often raiding one's compound and snatching up a young chicken before one's eyes. Beyond this their prey is mainly Doves and other smaller birds. They are commoner in the Rhun-Palm districts than elsewhere, and here they roost and nest among the leaves of these Palms, living apparently in peace and harmony with the big Rhun Pigeons, which haunt the same trees. Their Native names are Litchin in Joloff and Sélingo, or more fully Séling-djuha in Mandingo. Both the names, Litchin and Sélingo, are really general names for all the Grey Hawks, but are often also extended (though erroneously) to include other Hawks, such as the Kites.

The Rufous-necked Merlin is above blue grey narrowly barred with black, the quills are black tipped with white. The forehead is whitish, there is a black eyebrow and sub-ocular patch, and the crown and nape are chestnut; the chin and throat are white, the cheeks and breast fawn, the rest of the under surface blue-grey barred with black like the back. Iris brown; cere and eyelids yellow; beak browny black, yellowish at the base; legs dark yellow. Length of female 14 inches, of male 12.

F. subbuteo. HOBBY.

Range. Europe; Asia. Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

F. cuvieri. AFRICAN HOBBY.

Range. South and West Africa. (*H.L.*)

A Hobby is not at all uncommon here, though I do not know whether our bird is the European or African species or whether both occur in the Gambia. The following is a description of one shot in Kombo in May, 1910. Its broadly marked breast is in favour of its being the second, but against this is the presence of the very distinct rufous hind-collar.

General colour above very dark slate-grey, washed with lighter grey on the rump; the quills and tail feathers have on their inner webs a few patches of dull brown; an irregular rufous band behind the neck forms a distinct hind-collar. Face, ear-coverts, and a line running downwards, at side of throat dark grey, a narrow frontal line washed with brown; chin very pale fawn, the throat and side of neck a darker shade of the same, breast and upper abdomen fawn heavily marked with sepia; vent and under tail-coverts reddish fawn; thighs darker with a few small sepia spots. Under wing-coverts buff mottled with dark brown, under surface of flights dull sepia with pale brown splashes, under surface of tail dull sepia, paler at base. Beak slate, paler towards gape; cere and eye-ring yellow; legs a deeper yellow, claws black. Iris brown. Length $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Erythropus ardesiacus. RED-LEGGED KESTREL.

Range. North-east and Equatorial Africa; West Africa, Senegambia, to Angola. (*H.L.*)

A moderately large Grey Hawk, which is not uncommon in the Gambia. Its general colour is grey with a white chin and throat and a white terminal band to the tail feathers below. The beak is yellowish with a dark brown tip, the cere, eyelids and legs are orange-yellow. Length 12 inches.

Tinnunculus tinnunculus. KESTREL.

Range. Europe; Asia; Africa in winter. (*H.L*).

One often sees some kind of Kestrel hovering overhead just as one does at home; this I suppose to be this species.

Baza cuculoides. CUCKOO-FALCON.

Range. West and Equatorial Africa. (*H.L.*)

Another grey Hawk, which, however, is comparatively rare here, though I believe I occasionally see it. The general plumage above, from head to tail, is grey, below white banded on the sides with brown; under surface of wing brown. Length 16 inches.

Pernis apivorus. HONEY BUZZARD.

Range. Europe; West Siberia. Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

I believe this species has been shot in the Gambia, but I have never seen it.

Elanus caeruleus. BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE.

Range. Mediterranean. Africa. South Asia. (*H.L.*)

Not uncommon in the Gambia. General colour, a clear grey lighter on the head, a distinct black patch on the shoulder; quills grey tipped with black; tail feathers grey tipped with white, the white increasing from within outwards till the outer feathers are nearly wholly white. Under surface white to very pale grey. Iris red, cere yellow ochre, beak black, legs yellow. Length 12 inches.

Nauclerus riocouri. AFRICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE.

Range. North-east and West Africa, Senegambia to Hausaland. (*H.L.*)

A grey and white bird with very deeply forked tail, which looks when on the wing exactly like a large grey slow-flying Swallow. Its general colour above is grey, below white; on the external margin of the under wing-coverts is a broad black patch, which is invisible when the wing is closed. Iris crimson; cere grey; beak black; legs pale yellow. Length 14½ inches, of which the tail forms half. I have only seen these birds once or twice and then they have been flying slowly overhead in small flocks, returning at sunset from the marshes in which they have been feeding, probably mainly on insects and the like, during the day.

Milvus aegyptius. ARABIAN KITE.

Range. South-east Europe. Africa and Madagascar in winter. (*H.L.*)

M. korschun. BLACK KITE.

Range. Central and South Europe; Central Asia; Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

Kites are everywhere in the Gambia, year in and year out, playing their useful part as scavengers and refuse eaters, but occasionally adding a young chicken or lizard to their bill of fare. The larger insects, such as locusts, also form a large part of their food, and at bush-fires the Kites vie with the Rollers and other insectivorous birds in the pursuit of the multitudes of creeping things disturbed by the flames. When perched on a tree or when feeding on the ground they look ugly unsavoury birds, in fact typical carrion-eaters, but when on the wing they are all grace and speed as they wheel or float in the air—true examples of ideal and easy flight. The two species named probably both occur in the Gambia; the main difference between them is that the beak is yellow in *aegyptius*, black in *korschun*.

Gypohierax angolensis. VULTURINE SEA-EAGLE.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L*).

This black and white Eagle owing to its bare face, shape and colouration has a most Vulture-like look, but in courage and general demeanour can vie with many Eagles. They frequent the sea-coast, where they are very common, but are also found some distance up the river as well. Their chief food is fish, etc., cast up by the sea, but besides this they frequently go for a hare or young monkey in true Eagle style. Occasionally too one will swoop down on a dog and once a friend of mine riding along the beach was attacked by one of these Eagles and had the greatest difficulty in driving it off. Another addition to their diet is a most unexpected one—a vegetable substance, namely the kernels of the Oil-palm or their rind. Of these they are extremely fond and they are often to be seen tearing at the ripe bunches on these palms. From this habit they get their usual Mandingo name "Teng-domola-kune" (kernel-eating bird), and they are also known as "Doo-o ketto," a name which practically means "Vulturelike Eagle." Many of the natives regard the flesh as excellent "chop," especially at the beginning of the rains in the kernel season. Its general colour is white with black wings barred with white and a black tail with broad white tips to each feather; the face is bare and flesh-coloured, the bill grey, the cere and legs dirty pink. Iris dirty white. Length of female 24 inches, the male slightly smaller.

(*To be Continued.*)

The Aviaries and Birds at Hoddam Castle.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Concluded from page 315.

In my opening remarks I said that small birds had occupied but a small place in the Hoddam Castle collection in the past, this however, is now no longer the case, for since my visit, the collection has been enriched by a unique series of Flycatchers, Warblers, Redstarts, Tits, Chats and Wagtails, also 25 Sunbirds, and many other larger species not hitherto included in the collection—most of them in pairs, in some instances several pairs—thus rare species in the collection are now very numerous and cover many families.

Space only permits of a list of these later additions at this juncture, but many of them were briefly alluded to under "A Unique Consignment," p.p. 201 to 205 of current volume, and to those short notes I must refer my readers.

Short-billed Minivet (*Pericrorocotus brevirostris*).
Small Minivet (*P. perigrinus*).
Blue-throated Flycatcher (*Cyornis rubecŭloides*).
Great-billed Flycatcher (*C. magnirostris*).
Tickell's Flycatcher (*C. tickelli*).

Verditer Flycatcher (*Stoparola melanops*).
Rufous-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara*).
Plumbeous Redstart (*Rhyacophilus fuliginosus*).
White-capped Redstart (*Chimarrhornis leucocephala*).
Blue-fronted Redstart (*Ruticilla frontalis*).
Pied Bush-Chat (*Pratincola caprata*).
Large Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*).
Forest Wagtail (*Limonidromus indicus*), and others.
Ruby-throated Warblers (*Calliope camtchatkensis*).
Red-spotted Blue-throated Warblers (*Cyanecula suecica*).
Yellow-cheeked Tit (*Machlolopus xanthogenys*).
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta castaneiventris*).
Black-headed Sibias (*Malacias capistrata*).
Blue-winged Siva (*Siva cyanoptera*).
Silver-eared Mesia (*Mesia argentauris*).

Also the following better known species :—

Occipital, Wandering and Blue Pies.
Laughing Jay and Blue Whistling Thrushes.
Chestnut-bellied and Blue-headed Blue Rock Thrushes.
Blue-winged and Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls.
Shamas, Dhyals, and Spotted Wings.
Red-billed and Nepal Babblers.
Purple, and Amethyst-rumped Sunbirds.

I am fully aware how inadequate has been the description, both of aviaries and birds—the task was too heavy for the scope of this article—but with such material and accommodation that has been described therein, there should be, with a modicum of luck, some notable results in these aviaries during the season 1912.

One thing only is wanted to make them complete in every sense, and that is, a large wilderness enclosure to encourage breeding operations. Very many of the species referred to in these notes, especially the birds listed in this instalment, should then breed freely.

The Loo-choo Jay.

(*Lalocitta lidthii*).

By Hubert D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Mr. A. E. Jamrach received about a dozen of these splendid Jays in the middle of November, of which I bought a pair. They look as if they are closely related to the Cissas, or Hunting Crows. The feathers round the bill—which is very pale greenish-grey horn, growing whiter at the tip—are black, merging almost at once into a rich purple-blue, which colour covers the whole head, neck, and upper breast, as well as the wings and tail. The throat has lanceolate feathers with white shafts. The back and underparts are rich vinous-chestnut (Ruben's madder); some of the secondary wing feathers have white at the tips, and the tail feathers except the two central ones, which are black towards the tips, have also broad white terminals; legs and feet bluish-grey. This Jay was named after Professor van Lidth de Jeude, of Utrecht, from whose collection of bird skins it was described.

It was known to be found in Japan or some adjacent island, but since then the island of Loo-Choo has been discovered to be its habitat.

It is as large as our English Jay, but the tail is considerably longer. A very active bird and a very beautiful one.

Visits to Members' Aviaries.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

(*Concluded from page* 309).

Mr. Temple's Aviaries: It was at the end of September last that I was able to run over to Datchet to see the birds and aviaries and enjoy the kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Temple.

The aviaries, which are four in number, are all roomy, substantial, and natural. Three of them are at the bottom of the flower garden, with flights averaging 12 feet square, and well lighted sheds about the same size, each fitted with hot water service. It was in one of these aviaries that the Tree Creepers only just failed to rear their brood, of which interesting episode an account appeared, from Mr. Temple's pen in October issue (pages 284—287) of current volume. These aviaries were complete with every desideratum for the comfort of the birds—natural cover and substantial and weather proof shelter—nothing really wanting, and the birds during their period of occupancy, have mostly done well, though this year's results have been below the average, as has been the case in many aviaries.

The fourth and largest aviary was in the kitchen garden, an elegant structure of iron framing, and well-lighted shelters; of the latter there are two, one unheated and the other with an ample hot-water service. The flight of this aviary is 36 x 24 x 12 feet high, with creepers up the standards and a number of very fine Bamboos standing about in tubs; the shelters each being about 12 x 9 x 8 feet high, so that the accommodation is ample and natural.

I have purposely only given a sketchy description of the above, as I am hoping to have a fully descriptive article illustrated with photos and plans in an early issue of next volume.

In these aviaries, many Parrot, Gouldian, Long-tailed Grass, Ruficauda, and other Finches and Waxbills have been successfully reared.

All the birds I saw were in excellent condition. Possibly the choicest of his birds were a lovely pair of Australian Fire-tailed Finches (*Zonœginthus bellus*), which though they build enormous nests, get no "forrader." Not the least interesting of Mr. Temple's collection were some dozen pied, albino, and abnormally plumaged birds, consisting of Sparrows, Blackbirds, Thrush, Starling, Linnet, and Robin, some of which should make their mark on the show bench this season. During this season young of Parrot, Ruficauda, Long-tailed Grass, and Jacarini Finches, and Harlequin Quails have been fully reared.

In conclusion, I must thank Mr. and Mrs. Temple for a most interesting and pleasant visit.

Mr. L. G. Chiozza Money's Aviaries: I received a kind and pressing invitation from Mr. Money to go over to Chaldon and renew my acquaintance with his aviaries and birds, and in late September I was able to do so, and much enjoyed my visit and the genial hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Money.

Since my visit in the fall of last year, the aviaries have grown beyond recognition, while the number of their occupants is almost legion, and certainly too numerous for me to give in detail.

Here again the description will be but sketchy, as I am hoping for an illustrated article in a near issue of our Journal.

The aviaries are roomy natural enclosures, with a shrubbery all round the framework of flight, then a gravel walk, with the centre a lawn, in the middle of which is a shallow vessel and fountain, and under small shelters at the four corners of the lawn are placed the food vessels, thus compelling the birds to be more or less on view during the day. The aviaries, of which there are two, are each about 70 x 30 feet, with suitable shelters. One, situated in the garden is called "The Garden Aviary," the other in a clearing in the wood, is termed "The Wood Aviary."

Not the least interesting feature of these sketchy notes will be the varied species that are associated together and so living in amity. About the garden roam a few individuals which proved obstreperous and were given their liberty, and appear likely to remain about the garden and wood.

The Garden Aviary contains the following species living happily together, all were in perfect health and condition, and though the additions this year have been quite numerous, very many of them have been successfully wintered out of doors.

Scarlet Tanagers.
Superb Tanagers.
Archbishop Tanagers.
Pied Wagtails.
Grey Wagtails.
Crested Tits.
Nuthatches.
Brown-winged Blue Grosbeaks.
Lesser Whitethroat.
Shama.
Silver-eared Mesia.
English Redstart.
Blackcap.
Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers.
Rufous-necked Weavers.
Orange Weavers.
Baya Weavers.
Madagascar Weavers.
Cordon Bleus.
Blue Sugar-birds.
Nightingale.
Masked Grassfinches.
Chestnut-breasted Finches.
Ruficauda Finches.
Parson Finches.
Pectoral Finches.
Zebra Finches.
Guttural Finches.
Jacarini Finches.
Cuban Finches.
Pileated Finches.
Sikhim Siskin.
Chilian Blue-headed Nonpareil.
Orange-cheeked Waxbills.
St. Helena Waxbills.
Avadavat Waxbills.
Hartz Canaries.

The Wood Aviary contains many of the species enumerated above, and in addition the following:

Long-tailed Tits.
Marsh Tits.
Bearded Tits.
Blue Tits.
Yellow Wagtail.
Stonechat.
Whinchat.
Redstart.
Blackcap.
Siberian Nightingale.
Mouse-Birds (Coleys).
Black Tanagers.
Blue Tanagers.
Black-crested Bunting.
Silky Cowbirds.
Pekin Robins.
Gold-crested Wrens.
Black-headed Grosbeaks.
Blue Grosbeaks.
Virginian Cardinals.
Green Cardinals.
Pope Cardinals.
Hoopoe.
Green Avadavats.
Grey Waxbills.
Black-headed Weavers.
Grenadier Weavers.
Masked Weavers.
Long-tailed Grassfinches.
Goldfinch.
Saffron Finches.
Olive Finches.
Black-headed Siskins.

It was a revelation to see such variety and numbers flying together and enjoying life amid semi-natural surroundings—but in considering variety and numbers kept together, size of aviary, natural cover and roomy shelters must be carefully noted.

I am promised an article from Mr. Money's pen for a near issue of our magazine, in which details, demeanour, etc., of the occupants of the aviaries, some of which are "much libelled" species, will be included.

With my host and hostess in the midst of the aviaries and birds, avicultural yarning, etc., the day passed all too quickly, and evening brought a most interesting visit to a conclusion—the extent of my interest and the fascination of seeing such a varied series of birds enjoying comparative liberty will readily be understood by my readers, the tame and fearless demeanour of the birds being especially fascinating.

Mr. Willford's Aviaries: About a month ago, I spent a few days with Mr. Willford, and had another opportunity of seeing his fine series of aviaries, which seem to increase in extent with each visit—there must be about one acre under wire at the present time—but these have been so often described that I make only the barest allusion to them here, and to mention one important improvement, viz., a large room (studio-lounge) erected over the shelters in a central position, has been fitted with a verandah and a flight of steps down into the Wilderness Aviary, and a flight of steps up to a roomy look-out platform on the roof.

Most of these aviaries have now matured and the occupants are able to nest under practically natural conditions. Among the many rare and uncommon species occupying them, none interested me more than a group of indigenous species Redstarts, Willow Warblers, Lesser Whitethroats, Stonechats, etc. These made a fascinating picture, and held my fixed attention for quite a period on more than one occasion. Very entrancing were a group of hand-reared Stonechats (almost in mature plumage) in the Wilderness Aviary, being even more tame and confiding than caged birds, coming to all, strangers, or otherwise, asking by their demeanour, for some tit-bit.

Here again, hope of a detailed account of the year's doings of the birds in the Haven-street Aviaries, cause me to refrain from fuller details.

Mr. Sich's Aviary: From Mr. Willford's I went on to Mr. Sich and spent a few days with him at East Hoathly, and though the weather was very unfavourable, a most interesting time was spent amid the birds, and much avicultural yarning. As a full description of this aviary and its occupants from Mr. Sich's pen appeared in a recent issue of *Bird Notes*, only passing mention is called for from me.

First I must say that the ground plan and description conveys but a small idea of what a birdy paradise this roomy flight will be, for next season—the natural cover is being extended, as also is the shelter accommodation—this combined with its being placed right in the heart of rural Sussex, with its pure atmosphere, southern situation, and abounding supply of insect life, should enable its occupants to successfully reproduce their kind, and to enjoy life—apart from peril—to the fullest extent of the birdy-mind.

To conclude, I would urge those, that hitherto, have not gone in for the garden aviary, to do so, as, if only a few birds are kept, to give them space and growing trees to live among, will increase interest and pleasure in them forty-fold—for amid such surroundings, it is an everchanging panorama, as their life history from the egg to the mature bird is unfolded to the observant eye. The varying demeanour, the loves, quarrels, disasters, and joyous deportment of these feathered creatures of the air—each season history repeats itself, modified by the conditions of the particular season—forming a source of interest and pleasure which is ever fresh and of which one never wearies.

I can only hope that this series of visits has proved of sufficient practical interest to warrant the space occupied.

Freely Imported Species and their Treatment.

By Philip Gosse, M.R.C.S.

Passerine Parrakeets (*Psittacula passerina*). The pair that bred in my aviary, this September, were bought from a well known dealer about a year ago. They spent the winter out of doors and were soon in splendid condition.

In August I noticed that the hen had disappeared, and although I searched every nook and cranny I could not see or find out whether she had escaped or what had happened to her. For several weeks I saw nothing of her, but on September the 8th I found a fully fledged young cock Blue-wing dead on the floor of the aviary shelter; and on looking into a hollow elm branch that hung under the roof, out flew the long-lost hen, and inside were two more young cocks.

At the same time I found sitting on a twig at the other end of the flight what I took to be a young cock Madagascar Love-bird. It was a thick-set little Parrakeet, green all over, but with the head and neck covered with grey quills. I did not suspect that I had made a mistake until I saw the old Blue-wing cock feeding it, when I saw that it was a young Blue-wing hen, in perfect feather except for the head and neck, which were covered with grey quills. In about a week's time this had changed to uniform green.

The young cock Blue-wings had much more colour showing when at rest with the wings closed than the adult bird.

The old birds soon went to nest again, and are now (November 7th), incubating another clutch in an elm log.

Grey-Headed or Madagascar Lovebirds (*Agapornis cana*). These began to make a nest in a Berlipsch nesting box for Swifts. As soon as I noticed this I placed some strips of bark, dead and green leaves in the aviary, and they soon had their slight nest finished. In the case of the leaves, they cut out pieces about three inches long and a quarter of an inch wide, being curved like a sickle. I have never seen them carrying the pieces to the nest, although I have often hoped to, to see if they would carry them tucked under their wing-coverts, as has been described.

These Swift's nesting boxes make excellent nesting sites for small birds, especially Parrakeets, as there is just room for them to get in and out; the box (a log) is about 18 inches deep with a depression made to keep the eggs together. Being made to hang in a horizontal position, the young can easily get out when the time comes for them to leave the nest; which is not always the case with a deep box, which has the opening at the top.

The Grey-headed Lovebirds have now been sitting for about a fortnight, and I have only once seen the hen out of the nest-box, when she was out for about ten minutes, sitting beside the cock bird while he fed her. I have never seen the cock bird go into the box since the nest was made, although, if he does not know I am near he has a peep into the box occassionally.

Cut-throats (*Amadina fasciata*). These have brought up several families in the course of the year; the last brood, four in number, left the nest on November 1st, while another pair has just started to lay again.

Common Reed-Buntings (*Emberiza schœniclus*) built in a small evergreen bush about one foot from the ground, laid two eggs which were duly hatched out. These were getting on well till the fifth day, when I found they had disappeared; whether it was mice or a Cowbird, or possibly the Pope Cardinals that were guilty I cannot say.

General Notes: So far I have not had much success with breeding birds, except Budgerigars (which don't count), having had various birds mixed up together too much, such as Cowbirds, Cardinals, and Pastors, with the smaller Finches. The latter I now keep altogether, with them are

Diamond and Masked Finches; a pair of Californian Quail, and Doves, in the largest aviary, which is 27 feet long by 27 feet deep. In another aviary, 27 feet by 10 feet, are a pair of Malabar Mynahs, one pair of Rain Quail, the Spectacled Laughing-Thrush (*Trochatopterum canorum*), and common Cardinals. In the last aviary (the highest), are pairs of Blood-rumped Parrakeets, Madagascar Lovebirds, and Passerine Parrakeets.

Both my hen Californian Quails died from "egg-binding," with their fifteenth egg—a curious coincidence. The eggs were placed under bantams, and hatched out all right. The Rain Quails made a nest in some high grass and laid eight beautifully marked eggs. But the young, which were minute lively balls of fluff escaped through the wire netting round the aviary. Next year I shall put them in a run by themselves where this cannot happen. For the last three years a Rosy Pastor and a Malabar Mynah (both cocks) have each spring built an enormous nest in some log or box, made of hay, bits of paper, string, etc. These two birds were always inseparable friends, until one of the opposite sex came on the scene, in the shape of a hen Malabar, which was sent me by Mr. Suggitt. Now the poor Pastor is hunted from pillar to post by the Malabars and I have had to put the two Pastors in with the Parrakeets. One of the Pastors I bought lately from Gamage, and it is by far the best coloured specimen I have ever seen, the pink colour being perfect. I used to keep the Pastor with the small birds and found him perfectly harmless except in the nesting season, when he and the Malabar would pull the other birds' nests to pieces to build their own with. The Indian Ring-necked Parrakeet that I liberated eighteen months ago still lives in and around the garden. Of the fifteen Budgerigars I let out all went away afoer a month or two except one pair which still remain, and will now stop here I think.

I hang up a tin of seed for them every morning, and a spray of millet, but the Indian Parrakeet always cuts this through with his beak, and flies away to the top of a tree to eat it.

BRITISH BIRDS.

Breeding of Goldfinches 1911.

(*Carduelis elegans, Stephens*).

By E. Sprankling.

A pair of Goldfinches which I purchased in the Autumn of the year 1909, have this year nested, and fully reared two fine young birds in a covered aviary about 7 feet 10 inches x 13 feet; the aviary also containing a number of breeding Canaries. The following year (1910) these same birds built two nests in ordinary canary-box nest receptacles, and laid a clutch of three eggs on each occasion. The first nest being completed in early June, and the first egg deposited on June 9th, only one of this clutch (three eggs) was fertile, and this hatched out on June 24th, but the youngster was not fully reared, it died on July 2nd. The second nest was soon completed, and on July 10th I found three eggs in it, these all proved fertile and hatched out on July 22nd, unfortunately the chicks soon died as the parents did not attempt to feed them. This year, however, they have been more successful although only having one nest in which a clutch of four eggs was deposited, the first egg being laid on June 19th and the fourth on June 22nd; all these were fertile and four young birds were hatched on July 5th, two of which almost instantly disappeared, where they went "goodness only knows" for I could find no trace of them, the remaining two were fully reared the old birds feeding splendidly. During this period I gave plenty of flowering and seeding grasses and plants, besides egg food (standard bread and egg), the latter food was really for the young canaries but the Goldies freely helped themselves to this, and it was undoubtedly the principal food upon which their young were reared. On July 20th the young birds flew out of the nest, the parents being very excited.

The date on which I first observed the young Greypates feeding I do not appear to have noted, but, when I saw them they were feeding on ripe heads of dandelion and corn marigold, but the parents fed them for some time after they were fully able to fend for themselves. On August 23rd, when about 7 weeks old I noticed they were moulting, the spotted appearance of their backs and breasts being replaced by the well known tints of the adult birds; a few feathers appeared to be gone on their heads but no sign of any colour showing. On September 2nd a few black spots were showing on their heads and a very slight yellowish tint on their faces, and by September 23rd both birds had properly moulted and were in splendid condition and colour, including their blazes, the beaks being the normal colour of mature birds. The flight and tail feathers did not moult out. It will be observed that the moulting took place on their bodies first and then their heads the whole taking about five weeks to complete. From the above notes it would appear that in a state of nature these finches when in the Greypate stage, are under seven weeks old, if no trace of the moult shows, and, that they are in full mature plumage when about 12 weeks old. All nests were partly shielded by branching sticks and have been built in ordinary canary nest-boxes hung in the highest part of the aviary, the two nests made in 1910 being exceedingly neat, but, this year's nest was a very clumsy looking affair composed of dried grass, moss, wool, and fluff from dandelion, old pampas grasses, etc., but the grasses were left straggling outside the box on to the branching sticks and yet the conditions as far as I remember as to nesting material were the same. These birds have had an abundant supply of flowering grasses, plants, etc., and to this I attribute their successful moulting and splendid condition.

Wild Goldfinches are very plentiful in this district and have been so for some years.

Editorial.

Zoo Notes: Some very interesting additions have recently been made, of which space only permits me to give a bare list this issue:

*Santa Cruz Woodpeckers.
Black-browed ,,
*Cuban ,,
*Cuban Green ,,
*Black-throated Crested Quails.
*Swamp Sparrows.
*Aztec Jay.
*Rainbow Bunting.

Bobolinks.
Myrtle Warblers.
Hermit Thrushes.
Brown Thrashers.
Melba Finches.
Quail ,,
Peale's Parrot Finches.
White-winged Whydahs.

* *New to the Collection.*

WINDSOR AND ETON SHOW: Quite a nice show of Foreigners, and some interesting Britshers, and Pied and Albino birds were staged. In the Foreign Section, our members Mr. W. R. Temple, and Dr. Amsler were the principal exhibitors. Mr. Temple staged the following in excellent condition Fire-tailed Finches, Sydney Waxbill, Gold-fronted Fruitsucker, White Thrush, White Robin, and White and Pied Sparrow, Dr. Amsler staged the following: Black-cheeked Cardinals, Common and Tri-coloured Parrot Finches, Gouldian Finches, Hooded Siskins, Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers, Black-headed Siskin, Cordon Bleus, Blue-breasted, Gold-breasted and Green Amaduvade Waxbills—these were the pick of the foreign species, the show was a very successful and well managed one.

THE MAGAZINE: The present issue completes Vol. II. of the new series, and, we think, most will agree that it is ahead of its predecessors. We have really given more illustrations than our funds warranted, and we trust many members will assist by contributing to the cost of blocks, that we may be able to grasp opportunities as they arise, of figuring interesting episodes of feathered life, both in field and aviary—Mr. Willford has kindly consented to act as Hon. Official Photographer to the club, and will respond to invitations to photograph nesting birds, etc., in members aviaries, whenever time permits (*see notice under* "*Notices to Members*" *in inset*). As regards contents of the coming Volume, we can only say as in past years, that if members generally will keep aviary log-books, and send in accounts of the doings of their birds and of new acquisitions, then the coming Volume will not be one whit behind any that have gone before, either in interest or as a source of mutual help to one and all.

Correspondence.

THE LEGAL POSITION OF A PURCHASER OF BIRDS.

Sir,—In the July issue of *Bird Notes* Mr. Gray raises certain queries in reference to the above when the purchase is effected through the post. The following notes may interest him and other readers.

The rights of a purchaser by post depend largely upon the facts of each particular case. He cannot reject birds merely because they do not come up to his expectations, for he takes the risk of buying without inspection and must stand by the result. The legal principle is expressed in the maxim *Caveat emptor*—This bare statement must however be qualified to this extent—if the description of the birds given by the seller is such that it amounts to a representation, as to their quality, inducing the purchaser to buy and upon the faith of which he buys, he is entitled, if they do not answer to that description, to intimate (promptly) to the seller that he refuses to take them, and to demand and, if necessary, sue for the return of the price. A purchaser can of course reject birds which completely fail to answer the description under which they are sold, but mere "puffing" will not give rise to a right to do so.

Whether it is for the buyer to take possession of the birds, or the seller to send them to the buyer depends in each case on the contract expressed or implied between the parties. In the absence of any such contract the place for delivery of the birds is the seller's place of business or (if he has not one) his residence, and if he is authorised or required to send them by rail or other carrier, and makes a reasonable arrangement for their transmission, they are at the risk of the buyer during transmission. If they arrive dead, dying, or in bad health, solely as a consequence of their journey, the purchaser is without remedy. If, however, the seller sends them off in such a condition that he knows they are likely to arrive dead or dying, the purchaser could refuse to take them; but this would always be difficult of proof.

HORATIO R. FILLMER.

AVIARY NOTES.

Sir,—With regard to my aviaries, I am sorry to be unable to report anything of interest, having been away from home all the summer. This damp climate and the partial shade of my lower aviary (described in the January *B.N.* current vol.), seems to suit the Pekin Robins excellently. This aviary now contains 2 hen Pekins, 2 hen Grey Singing Finches, one cock Grey Finch, a pair of Goldfinches, a hen Avadavat, whose mate has been indoors on account of the cold, and seven young Saffron Finches, last year's birds, just moulting into adult plumage. A nest basket was provided in the shelter for the Avadavats, and when I came to investigate I found it contained one egg, which I concluded belonged to the Avadavats. When the nest was taken down for cleaning purposes, I found the egg to be much too large for the Avadavat, it was white speckled with grey, and rather round, so must be a Saffron's egg. How one ever squeezed through the small opening to the nest

I do not know. Do they often try to nest before getting their full plumage.

I spent the summer in British Columbia, and was much interested in the wild bird life out there. Indigo Buntings are certainly very beautiful in their native haunts. Every evening, about six o'clock, a pair of Waxwings used to come down to feed in some willow brush round the house. The willows were covered with some sort of blight, and I imagine that the Waxwings found plenty of insect prey there. They are very handsome and I was much taken with their ways. I saw some very handsome birds which interested me much, but as I took no notes, the following description is very incomplete: The birds were about the size and build of a Bronze-winged Mannikin and with much the same sort of powerful looking beak, but their plumage was bright orange and black, with some brown on the wings. They were going about in pairs in June, so must I think nest there.

A very tempting opportunity came my way while out in British Columbia, of trying to hand-rear a Humming-bird. And I feel sure that a more enterprising member of the F.B.C. would have seized it. But I was not in a place where avicultural paraphernalia was easy to secure.

I found the nest of a Green Humming Bird in a Canadian cedar tree, on a branch overhanging the lake. It was a tiny thing, the outside being made of lichen and cobwebs, the lining of white willow fluff, and it contained one white egg and one youngster, just hatched. Unfortunately when I visited the nest later, the young birds were ready to fly, and they did so in the direction of the lake, dropping into the icy water, about twenty feet from the bank. With the help of a long twiggy birch branch I managed to fish one out, warming and drying it quite successfully in my hand, and replacing it later in the nest. But the second little bird had meanwhile disappeared, and could not be discovered even after a search along the bank. The plumage of the one young bird was almost as bright as that of the hen bird—or what I took to be the hen bird—for she hovered about quite near. Iridescent green breast, dark brown wings, a pale coloured breast, very short tail, and such big dark eyes.

E. MARJORIE HINCKS.

British Bird Notes.

Late Nesting of Starlings.

Sir,—It will probably interest many readers of *Bird Notes* to know, that last week a nest of young Starlings were being reared in an oak tree, not far from Ascot, Berks. I don't ever remember young Starlings at such a time of the year.

P. F. M. GALLOWAY.

STORMY PETREL.

Sir,—A Stormy Petrel was caught (inland) near here on November 27th.

WALTER SWAYSLAND.

Book Notices and Reviews.

TALKS ABOUT BIRDS: By Frank Finn, containing 16 full-page coloured plates, 20 in black and white, and 240 p.p. of text. Small Square Demy 8vo., Cloth Gilt-top, 6s. net. London, A. & C. Black, Soho Square, W. A splendid gift book for young people

Also received:

BIRD PROTECTION AND THE FEATHERED TRADE:

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW HAIRY WOODPECKER, Berkeley Univ. Press.

Will be reviewed in January *Bird Notes.*

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. *must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.*

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st *of any month.*

It would greatly help me to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. were in sending me dead birds to state the source they obtained the birds from and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

GREAT TIT found hanging on a cocoanut. (Miss Dorothy E. Pithie, Bellevue, Lymington, Hants.) Cause of death, hæmorrhage into the liver, probably from an injury.

PAIR OF PARSON FINCHES AND ZEBRA FINCH. (Capt. J. S. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln). The cause of death was congestion of the lungs, probably brought about by a chill.

SILVER-EARED MESIA (♂). Miss M. Drummond, Errol, N.B.) Death was produced by hæmorrhage, resulting from a ruptured liver.

LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCH. (H. V. Johnson, Southport). The spleen and liver were very much enlarged and crammed with innumerable yellowish nodules so characteristic of true bird fever. These lesions resemble very much those of tuberculosis, which is a very rare disease in cage-birds, notwithstanding the fact it is recorded against post mortem reports appearing in a fancy paper and from one who has no pathological knowledge whatever. Bird fever is very contagious and occasions great losses in bird rooms.

Whydah of Undetermined Species. (A. C. Young, Newcastle-on-Tyne). The cause of death was true bird fever, which is very deadly and highly contagious. The mortality is very great in a bird-room, less so in a large open out-door aviary where it takes a longer period to kill off the inmates. Thoroughly disinfect your cages by immersing them in a 6 per cent. solution of carbolic acid after they have been scrubbed and washed. Isolate all the other birds, singly if possible.

Canary and Bearded Tit. (The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Tadcaster). The cause of death was pneumonia in both instances. Try the tits with cream cheese.

Squamaba Quail ♂. (W. Shore Bailey, Westbury). The cause of death was anæmia resulting from coccidia or protozoal parasites in both caeca and in the lungs. This disease is very contagious especially to the *gallinacea*.

Hen Superb Tanager. (Miss E. Maud Knobel, 32 Tavistock Square, W.C.) The cause of death was hepatitis and pneumonia. The lungs were consolidated, which is rather unusual in birds; there was an effusion of blood into the abdominal cavity; the liver was tremendously enlarged, and nutmeg-like in appearance, and the spleen was yellowish, and about twice its normal size. The bird was well nourished. The swollen appearance of the abdomen during life was due to the enlargement of the liver. Tanagers, and in fact all the fruit and insect-eating birds are very liable to enlargement of the liver, which is generally brought about by living too freely on highly stimulating food, and not getting a corresponding amount of exercise to counterbalance the high living. Seed-eating birds, on the contrary, suffer from acute yellow atrophy of the liver. Give vichy water occasionally.

Answered by Post—G. Rice, Mrs. Henderson, The Hon. M. C. Hawke, Miss Maud Bousfield, O. Millsum.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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Clifton, Lord, Cobham Hall, Gravesend. (October, 1905).
Cochrane, Thos., Linden Lea, St. Boswells. (August, 1909).
Conway-Gordon, Miss V., Longley House, Rochester. (October, 1906).
Cook, W., 24, Hyde Park Gardens. London, W. (March, 1909).
Cope-Proctor, Miss M. E., 19, St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincs. (Feb., 1909).
Crisp, R. L., 58, Elm Park Road, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Feb., 1909)
Cronksnaw, J., 193, Manchester Street, Accrington. (November, 1901).
Croysdale, Mrs. B., Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames. (Jan., 1908).
Cullen, J. W., St. Nicholas Works, St. Nicholas Square, Leicester. (Nov., 1908).
Cushny, Charles, c/o Messrs. Neish, Howell and Haldane, 47, Watling Street, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. (Orig. Mem.)

Darrell, Dr. H. W., Adelaide House, All Saints, Green, Norwich. (Sept., 1908).
DeFreitas, E. W., Woodlands, Grenada, B.W.I. (April, 1910).
Dennis, Mrs. Harold, St. Leonard's Park, Horsham, Sussex. (Jan., 1904).
Delacour, J., F.Z.S., 76, Eaton Place, London, S.W. (Feb., 1909).
Dewar, D., Allahabad, U.P., India. (June, 1907).
Dewar, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square, Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.)
De Yardburgh-Bateson, The Hon. Lilla, Heslington, York. (June, 1903).
Dobbie, J., Waverley Works, Leith, N.B. (April, 1906).
Doherty, Mrs. B., Vernon House, Weston. Bath. (October, 1909).
Drummond, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, N.B. (November, 1907).
Dunleath, The Lady, Ballywalter Park, Ballywalter, co. Down. (Nov., 1901)
Dutton, The Hon. and Rev. Canon, Bibury, Fairford, Glos. (May, 1906).

Ebrill, Wm., 14, Victoria Terrace, Limerick. (April, 1906).
Edmunds, W., Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Dorset. (Nov., 1909).

Ellis, Jas. V., 23, Baronsmead Road, Barnes, London. S.W. (July, 1906).
Elms, E. F. M., Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey. (June, 1910.)
Ezra, A., 110, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W. (Jan., 1911).

Fasey, William R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrook. (Jan., 1903).
Finn, Frank, B.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 36, St. George's Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W. (September, 1903).
Fisher, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey. (May, 1908).
Flannery, M. J., Barrack Street, Nenagh, co. Tipperary, Ireland. (Jan., 1909).
Flower, Capt. S. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Keedah House, Zoological Gardens, Giza, Egypt. (March, 1909).
Flower, Mrs. Stanley, Longfield, Tring, Herts. (July, 1910).
Foster, Miss E. M., 35, High Street, Huntingdon. (Jan., 1909).
Foster, William Hill, 164, Portland Street, Southport. (Nov., 1901).
Frostick, J., 137, Endlesham Road, Balham, S.W. (Dec., 1909),

Galloway, Mrs. E., Fernville Fortis Green Road, East Finchley. (Jan., 1908).
Galloway, P. F. M., Durban, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham, Reading. (Nov., 1907).
Gerrard John, M.B.O.U., Worsley, Manchester. (June, 1905).
Goodchild, H., M.B.O.U., 66, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, N.W. (July, 1903).
Goodfellow, W., Montrose, "Mont Fluri," Southampton Grove, Bournemouth. (October, 1908).
Gorringe, The Rev Reginald, Manston Rectory, Stowminter Newton, Dorset. (December, 1902).
Gosse, Dr. Philip, Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Nr. Brockenhurst, Hants. (April, 1910).
Gourlay, H , Kempshott Park, Basingstoke. (November, 1907).
Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S. (*Hon. Veterinary Surgeon*), 23, Upper Phillimore Place, London, W. (May, 1906).
Grove, H. M., The National and Provincial Bank, High Street, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

Hadden, Miss Nellie, Hotel les Bains, Helwan, Egypt. (October, 1910).
Hadley, T. R., 29, 30, and 31, Princess Street, Burton-on-Trent. (Mar. 1908)
Haggie, G. E., Magdalen College, Oxford. (February, 1910).
Hahn, Countess C. V., 192, Walpole Road, Wimbledon, Surrey. (Aug. 1910,
Harper, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 6, Ashburnham Road, Bedford. (October 1907).
Harris, Chas., 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, E, (April, 1910).
Harrison, J. H., Ellerslie, East Beach, Lytham, Lancs. Dec., 1901).
Hartley, Mrs. E. A., St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings. (Sept., 1907).
Harvey, Lady, Langley Park, Slough. (June, 1908).
Hawke, The Hon. M. C., Wighill Park, Tadcaster. (Nov., 1902).
Hawkins, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Orig. Mem).

Henderson, Mrs. W. F., Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Nov., 1908).
Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derby. (March, 1907).
Hetley, Dr. Henry, Beaufort House, 114, Church Road, Norwood, S.E. (Jan., 1908).
Hewitt, F. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, near Grimsby, Lincs. (April, 1909).
Higginbotham, Mrs. J., Hyde House, Crescent Rise, Luton, Beds. (July, 1909).
Hincks, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton. Dec., 1904).
Hodgkin, Mrs., Sedburgh House, Kew Green, Surrey. (Feb., 1908),
Hollins, Miss Greyfriars, Preston, Lancashire. (Feb., 1906).
Hollins, B., 9, George Street, Hull. (May, 1903).
Holmes, Thomas, 46, Aglionby Street, Carlisle. (Jan., 1911).
Hopkinson, Emilus,, D.S.O., M.A., M.B:, Oxon., Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa. (Oct., 1901).
Horsbrugh, Major B. R., Morriston Biller, Newbridge, co. Kildare. (Oct., 1909).
Horton, L. W., Hill House, Compton, Wolverampton. (Sept., 1902).
Houlton, Charles, Laburnum House, Denton's Green, St. Helen's, Lancs. (Nov., 1901).
Howe, Frank, 54, Thomas Street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. (Feb., 1902).
Hubbard, Mrs. D. L. Casa Sta. Monica, Bordighera, Italy. (Jan. 1905).
Hume, James, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).
Humphrys, Russell, Bryn Court, Warlingham, Surrey. (July, 1902).
Huxley, A. J., 57, Bradford Street, Walsall. (May, 1908).

Jamrach, A. E., 180, St. George's Street, London, E. (July, 1909).
Jardine, Miss E. L., Lady Superintendent, Freed Slaves' Homes, Zungaree, Northern Nigeria. (Dec., 1902).
Jeffrey, H. G., 75, Pyle Street, Newport, I.O.W. (Dec., 1909).
Johnson, Miss L. Sturton, Orotava House, Ore, Nr. Hastings. (Sept., 1910).
Johnson, H. V., 18, Chambers Road, Southport.. (Nov., 1908).

Kennedy, Lt. G., c/o Mrs. Kennedy, 7, Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey. (May, 1908).
Kenworthy, J. M., Meadowcroft, Windermere. (June, 1909).
King, Frank, High Holme Nurseries, Louth, Lincs. (March, 1909).
Kirk, D. Croisdale, Blair Athol, Llanishan, near Cardiff. (May, 1909).

Lee, Mrs. E. D., Hartwell House, Aylesbury, M.A. (Sept., 1910)

Lamb, E. J., Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Malden, Surrey. (May, 1906).

Larner, H. B., Holt, Norfolk. (August, 1909).

Lawes-Wittenrouge, Bart., Sir Chas., Studio, Chelsea Gardens, London, S.W. (Sept., 1909).

Lewis, J., Corstorphine, Ryde, Isle of Wight. (June, 1908).

Little, Miss C. Rosa, Baronshalt, The Barons, East Twickenham. (Nov., 1902).

Longdon, Mrs. C. A., Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford. (Feb., 1909).

Lythgoe, G. W. F., 76, Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford, Manchester. (Nov., 1906).

Money, L. G. Chiozza, Tyhurst, Chaldon, Surrey. (Oct., 1910).

Mackenzie, Jos. E., Chetolah Park, 21 Slipe Pen Road, Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I. (March, 1910).

Maggs, Mrs. Venie, Oakwell Hall, Birstall, Nr. Leeds. (April, 1910).

Mahon, Mrs. Alice S., Brookhill, Claremorris, Ireland, (May, 1910).

Malden, Countess Eveline, Wragmore, Southbury, Leighton Buzzard. (Aug., 1909).

Marriner, J. Sumner, Woodbank, Denton, Ben Rhydding. (Oct. 1909).

McDonagh, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., F.L.S., 19, Harley Street, London, W. (Jan., 1903).

McLaren, The Hon. Mrs. Morrison, Kepwick Park, Northallerton, Yorks. (Nov., 1906).

Marmont, W. B., The Firs, Amberley, near Stroud. (Oct., 1908).

Master, G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov., 1903).

Meadows, J. C. W., 17, Cardiff Road, Luton, Beds.

Mathias, H. W., Lucerne, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants, (Oct., 1908.

Maxwell, C. T. Southlawn, Acre Lane, Brixton, London, S.W. (Dec., 1908).

Miller, Mrs. K. Leslie, 27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W. (Jan., 1904).

Miller Tinniswood, F.Z.S., 27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W. (Sept., 1907).

Millsum, O., Everberg par Cortenberg, Brabant, Belgium. (July, 1907).

Mitchell, H., Lyndhurst, Hants. (Sept., 1903).

Montague, G. R., 63, Croxsted Road, West Dulwich. (Feb., 1909)

Morgan, Miss H. L., 108, Craiglea Drive, Edinburgh, N.B. (March, 1907).

Mortimer, Mrs. Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey, (Orig. Mem).

Mortimer, Miss, Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey. (Nov., 1908).

Murray, A. L., Keith, 1, Chudleigh Villas, Bideford, N. Devon. (April, 1908).

NEWBOLD, T., Avoca, Linthorpe, Middlesborough. (Dec., 1902).

NEWLEY, R. A., 24, Stockwell Green, London, S. W. (Nov., 1910).

NEWMAN, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (July, 1903).

NICOLSON, THOS. G., Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. (June, 1910).

NEWBOULD, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U:, Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (July, 1903).

O'NEIL, ARTHUR, 25, Eldred Street, Carlisle. (Jan., 1911).

OAKEY, W., 34, High Street, Leicester. (Orig. Mem.).

OBERHOLSER, HARRY C., 1445, Girard Street, Washington, D. C., U.S.A. (Dec., 1903).

O'REILLY, NICHOLAS, S., 80, Marine Parade, Brighton. (Org. Mem.).

PAINTER, V. KENYON, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. (Nov., 1910).

PEACOCK, Miss L., Springmead, Sidcup, Kent. (June, 1910).

PIKE, L. G., King Barrow, Wareham, Dorset. (Dec., 1910).

PAGE, W. T., F.Z.S. (*Hon. Editor*), Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey. (May, 1905).

PARTRIDGE, Mrs. LOXIA, Richmond Road, Worthing. (Dec., 1905).

PAUVVEL, ROBERT E., Everbeg par, Cortenberg, Belgium. (Sept., 1909).

PATERSON, Rev. J. MAPLETOFT, St. John's Vicarage, Hollington, St. Leonard's-on-Sea. (Nov., 1908).

PENNANT, Lady EDITH DOUGLAS, Soham House, Newmarket. (July, 1908).

PERKINS, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Gloucestershire. (Feb., 1903)

PERREAU, Capt. G. F., F.Z.S., 2-4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjaub, India, (Dec., 1903).

PERREAU, Mrs. R. A. D., 11, Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh, N.B. (Sept., 1908).

PERRING, C. S. R., 1, Walpole Road, Twickenham. (Oct., 1902).

PICKARD, H. K., 298, West End Lane, London, N.W. (Oct., 1901).

PICKLES, W. H., Stonyhurst, Morecambe, Lancs. May, 1904).

PILKINGTON, Lady KATHLEEN, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (Sept., 1908).

POND, Mrs. T., 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (Nov., 1908).

PYKE, W., 106, Church Street, Preston, Lancs. (Oct., 1907).

QUINCY, R. de QUINCY, Inglewood, Chiselhurst, Kent. (Aug., 1910).

RATTIGAN, G. E., Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W. (March, 1909).

Raven, W. H., 239, Derby Road, Nottingham. (Oct., 1909).
Raynor, Rev. G. H., Hazleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex. (Dec., 1909).
Read, Mrs. W. H., 105, Chesterton Road, Cambridge. (Jan., 1911).
Reeve, Capt., J. S., Leadenham House, Lincoln. (March, 1908).
Restall, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (Nov., 1903).
Rice, Capt., G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie, N.B. (July, 1902).
Riley, E., 66, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester. (March, 1909).
Robbins, H., 25, Campden Hill Square, London, W. (Oct., 1908).
Robson, J., 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E. (Dec., 1909).
Rogers, W. T., Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex. (Oct., 1907).
Rogerson, Mrs., Feurville, Cheltenham. (Feb., 1903).
Rotch, F. M., Sunnycliff, Cholmondley Road, West Kirby, Cheshire. (Orig. Mem.).
Roth, Fred G. R., 27, Morse Place, Englewood, N.Y., U.S.A. (Nov., 1908).
Row, C. H., Chapel House, Long Melford, Suffolk. (Dec., 1905).
Roberts, Mrs. G. L., 132, Queen's Road, London, W. (Jan., 1911).
Robinson, C. H., The Grange, Glaisdale, Grosmont, R.S.O. (Dec., 1910).

St. A. Wait, Miss Louisa, 12, Rosary Gardens, London, S.W. (Dec., 1907).
Savage, A., 16, Rue Gilbert, 16, Rouen, France. (Dec., 1905).
Scherren, H., F.Z.S., 9, Cavendish Road, Harringay, London, N. (July, 1908).
Scott, B. Hamilton, Hamildean, Ipswich.
Scott, J. Easton, M.B., Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).
Scott, Mrs. J. Easton, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1910).
Sich, H. L., c/o Dr. L. Lovett-Keays, Park Lodge, East Hoathley, Sussex, and Corney House, Chiswick, W. (June, 1908).
Sidebottom, Mrs. E. Harrop, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Cheshire. (Feb., 1908).
Silver, Allen, 11, Foulser Road, Upper Tooting, S.W. (Orig. Mem.).
Sills, Arthur, 260, Loughborough Road, Leicester. (Jan., 1911).
Simpson, R. E., 9, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds. (Dec., 1907).
Sladden, J. H., 140, Denmark Road, Lowestoft. (Oct., 1908).
Smith-Ryland, Mrs., Barford Hill, Warwick. (April, 1909).
Smith, W., 12, Claremont, Redruth. (May, 1910).
Smith, W. S., 24, Jubilee Street, Luton, Beds. (Dec., 1908).
Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal.

Smyth, Miss Alfreda, 40, Davenport Road, Catford, S.E. (Jan., 1911).

Soames, Rev. H. A., M.A., F.L.S., Lyncroft, Bromley, Kent: (Feb:, 1910).

Somers, Frank, M.R.C.V.S., 66, Francis Street, Leeds. (Jan., 1907).

Southcombe, S. L., Heskin, Birch Grove, Taunton. (Sept., 1910s.

Spencer P. J., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin,), 147, Mellison Road, Tooting, London, S.W. (May, 1910).

Sprankling, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (Feb., 1908).

Sterckmans, Dr. C., 28, Rue del la Station, Louvain, Belgium. (Aug., 1910).

Stocker, J. M., The Villas, Stoke-on-Trent. (Nov., 1908).

Street, E., 75, and 76, Horninglow Street, Burton-on-Trent. (May, 1909).

Stuart-Wortley, Dock House, Beaulieu, Hants. (Oct., 1910).

Sturroch, J. P., M.D., "Northcote," Edinburgh Road, Perth, N.B. Oct., 1908).

Suffolk and Berkshire, Countess of, Charlton Park, Malmesbury. (Feb., 1909).

Suggitt, R., Suggit's Lane, Cleethorpes. (Dec., 1903).

Sutcliffe, Albert, Field House, Grimsby. (May, 1907).

Sutton, J. Pelham, Melbourne Lodge, Carlton Road, Putney, London, S.W. (May, 1910).

Swaysland, W., 47, Queen's Road, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.).

Thorburn, Miss C. W., 99, Edge Lane, Liverpool. (March, 1910).

Thorpe, Mrs., 31, Castleton Road, West Kensington, London, W. (Jan., 1911).

Thwaits, Dr. Gilbert B., 34, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton. (May, 1910).

Travis-Travis, Mrs., Redmore, Grange, Stourbridge. (Jan., 1911).

Turner-Turner, Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Hants. (Nov., 1910).

Temple, W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks. (Dec., 1908).

Teschemaker, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth, Devon. (Mar., 1907).

Tomassi Baldelli, La Countessa G., 4, Via Silvio Pelico, Florence, Italy. (Dec., 1901).

Townsend, S. M., (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*), 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Orig. Member).

Toye, Mrs. M., Stanhope, Bideford, N. Devon. (Nov., 1901).

Travers, Miss Annette, Kingcraigee, Courtmacsherry, co. Cork. (Dec., 1903).

Treloar, Sir, Wm., Bart., Grange Mount, Norwood, Surrey. (June, 1909).

Turner, Thos., Cullompton, Devon. (May, 1908).

Vollmar, 8, George Street, Minories, London, E.C. (Feb., 1909).

Waddell, Miss E. G. R. Peddie, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh. (Feb., 1909).

Walker, A., M.A., B.Sc., M.D., The Chestnuts, Westbourne Grove, Sheffield. (Dec., 1907).

Walsh, J., 159, Dukes Brow, Blackburn. (Dec., 1908).

Walsh, Jeffrey, Pheasant Aviaries, Blackburn. (Oct., 1910).

Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset, Carrowden Castle, Donaghadee, co. Down. (Oct., 1905).

Wardale, H., Willington House, Willington Quay, Northumberland. (May, 1903).

Watts, Rudolph, Wilmar, Wiggenhall Road, Watford. (Nov., 1906).

Waren-Williams, H. E., Woodcote Lodge, Wallington, Surrey. (Jan., 1911).

Watson, S., 37, Tithebarn Street, Preston. (Sept., 1910).

Williams, Mrs. C. H., Emmanuel Parsonage, Exeter. (Jan., 1911).

Williams, Mrs. Ffrench, 6, Wellington Square, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Dec., 1909).

Williams, Mrs. L., Oatlands, Sunbridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent. (June, 1910).

Williams, Sydney, F.Z.S., Holland Lodge, Edmonton. (Oct., 1910).

Wright, F. H., Westholme, Sandal, Wakefield. (Jan., 1911).

Yeoman, Mrs. Pattison, The Close, Brompton, Nr. Northallerton, Yorks. (April, 1910).

Webb, Miss Katherine, 35, Barton Road, Cambridge. (July, 1909).

Westacott, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead. (Sept., 1907).

Weston, G. E., 66, Woodsome Road, Highgate, London, N.W. (July, 1908).

Willford, Henry (*Hon. Treasurer* and *Business Secretary*), Uplands View, Haven Street, Isle of Wight. (July, 1908).

Willford, Neville, Haven Street, Isle of Wight.

Wilson, Miss F. M., 34, Charrington Street, London, N.W. (March, 1906).

Wilson, T. N., M.A., Oak Lodge, Bitterne, near Southampton. (Jan., 1902).

Winchelsea and Nottingham, The Countess of, Harlech, Merioneth. (June, 1903).

Wimble, Chas., Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham. (Dec., 1909).

Wormald, Hugh, Heathfield, East Dereham, Norfolk. (Jan., 1908).

Wright, G. B., c/c G. Heaton, Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham, (June, 1908).

Wrottesley, The Hon. Walter B., F.Z.S., Seisdon, Apsley End, Hemel Hempstead. (Dec., 1902).

Yealland, James, Haven Street, Isle of Wight. (Sept., 1909).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly advised of any errors or omissions in the above list.

Roll of Assocates.

ACUTT, J., Goodrest, Manor Road, New Melton, Hants. (July, 1907).

BRICKWOOD, Miss EDITH, 3, Ladies Lodge, Dunstable, Beds. (May, 1907).

GREEVEN, Miss M., 29, Queensborough Terrace, Hyde Park, W (Oct., 1907).

HALLIDAY, CHARLES, Bridge Street, Banbridge, co. Down. (June, 1903).

HENTSCH, W. J., Douglas Villa, Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey. (Jan., 1904).

HYDE, and Co., LTD., R., Harold Street, Camberwell, S.E. (May, 1902).

LOCK, Miss M., 84a, Salisbury Road, Brondesbury, London, N.W. (Feb., 1906).

MARTIN, Mrs. HORACE, 13, Hillside, Wimbledon, Surrey. (May, 1904).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly advised of any errors or omissions in the above list.

RULES.

1. The objects of "THE FOREIGN BIRD-CLUB" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members and associates in the keeping, breeding, and exhibiting of Foreign Birds, and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The club shall be composed of members and associates. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 10s. Every associate shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 5s. Associates shall have such of the privileges of members as the Council shall from time to time direct. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's or associate's subscriptions shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all the benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a member or asscciate, of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member or associate accordingly, but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.

3. New members shall be proposed in writing by a member of the Club, and new associates by either a member or an associate; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more members shall lodge with either of the Secretaries objections to any candidate, he shall not be elected, but the signature to be signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors. Associates desirous to become members shall go through the same form of election as other candidates, but shall not pay an entrance fee.

4. Any member or associate wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice he shall be liable to the following year's subscription.

5. The officers of the Club shall be elected from the members, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Council of twelve members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Secretary or Secretaries and the Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Council. The Secretary or Secretaries and Treasurer shall be elected trienially. The Council and the Judges shall be elected annually by the members in manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council immediately after their own election.

6. The election of the Council and the Judges shall take place every year between the 15th of November and the 5th of December

The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each member of the Club, on or about the 15th of November a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each member shall make a (✖) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before 5th of December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each candidate, and send it to one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for December. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the President shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again shall be deemed a bird dealer. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list or members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council; and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council, or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a member of the Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its power to a Committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between members and associates, when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extend permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give to the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto within fourteen days the proposed alterations or addition shall be submitted to the votes of the members. Failing such objection the alteration shall date from its adoption by the Council.

11. The Council shall have power to expel any member or or associate at any time.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a candidate at any election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time other than the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have power to appoint any member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of the majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

Notices to Members.

Subscriptions: Members are reminded that these became due on January 1st. and being payable in advance, should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer *at once.*

The Magazine: We would remind members that every effort will be made to keep up the quality, and number of illustrations, but that this can only be done by the extra assistance of members—a full page half-tone plate costs about 16s. 6d., and members who appreciate this feature can materially lighten the work of officers and committee by contributing the cost of one or more. For this purpose a standing Illustration Fund is kept open.

Back Volumes: The attention of new members is drawn to these. These volumes are replete with information upon every phase of aviculture and are excellent value—(see Publisher's notice) the purchase of these also materially helps the club's funds.

Our Roll: At the risk of repeating this matter *ad nauseum* we once more urge *all* to unite in the effort to obtain 150 new members by the earliest possible date—what a dozen cannot quickly achieve, the united effort of all will soon accomplish.

Our Articles: Members are once more reminded that these can only be varied and reach their full usefulness as all take a part in supplying copy. We specially ask those members keeping Game birds, Water-fowl, Parrots, and Parrakeets, and British Birds, to send in accounts of their birds and methods of keeping them. *Also note requests in the paragraph "The New Volume" under Editorial.*

Important: Will members please note that in case of any month's issue not coming to hand, say by the 20th of the month, that they should lodge a complaint with the publisher and in tha most unlikely event of this not receiving attention, then to notify the Hon. Business Secretary.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sec.*

The Hon. Editor's Testimonial Fund.

In response to the circular sent out in November last, the following donations have been received up to January 1st, 1911. We feel sure there are many who would wish to contribute to this fund, but have doubtless overlooked it owing to the many and varied claims upon their time and interest at this season of the year. The list will therefore be kept open until January 31st, next. This will be the occasion of the Club Dinner at the Crystal Palace, when the amount will be handed over to H. Willford, Esq., the Club Hon. Treasurer.

Subscriptions to the Fund should be sent to:—

A. SUTCLIFFE, ESQ.,
Field House,
Grimsby.
Lincs.

	£	s.	d.
Anninson, Mrs. C.	2	2	0
Astley, H. D., M.A.	1	1	0
Amsler, Dr. M.	1	1	0
Acutt, J.	0	2	6
Armstein, M.	0	5	0
Bamford, W.	3	0	0
Baker, Miss M. E.	0	10	6
Bruce, Miss A.	0	10	0
Baily, Wm. Shore	0	10	6
Brook, E. J.	10	0	0
Beaty, S.	1	1	0
Browning, M. H.	2	0	0
Bourke, Hon. Gwendoline	1	0	0
Chawner, Miss Ethel	2	2	0
Croysdale, Mrs. B.	0	10	0
Dennis, Mrs. H.	0	10	0
Drummond, Miss	1	1	0
Dutton, F. G., The Hon. and Rev. Canon	2	0	0
Gosse, Phillip, M.R.C.S.	1	1	0
Geoman, Mrs. Pattison	0	10	0
Greevin, M.	0	7	6
Harris, C.	0	10	6
Hopkinson, E., D.S.O., M.A., M.B.	3	3	0
Henstock, J. H.,	1	1	0
Hewitt, T. W. G.	1	1	0
Hartley, Mrs. E. A.	5	0	0
Hincks, Miss E. M.	0	5	0
Jamrach, A. E.	1	1	0
Larner, H. B.	0	5	0
Montague, R.	0	10	6
Mortimer, Mrs. E. P.	0	10	0
Mortimer, Miss	0	10	0
Mathias, H. W., F.R.H.S.	1	11	6
Meadows, J. C. W.	0	5	0
Mellor, Mrs. E.	0	10	0
Mitchell, H.	1	0	0
McDonagh, Dr. J. E. R.	1	1	0
Nicolson, Thos. G.	0	10	0
O'Reilly, Nicholas, S.	2	0	0
Oatrey, W.	0	5	0
Pickles, W. H.	0	10	6
Pennant, Lady Edith Douglas	2	2	0
Picard, H. R.	0	10	0
Reeve, Capt. J. S.	1	0	0
Rogers, W. T.	1	1	0
Row, C. H.	0	5	0
Raynor, G. H.	0	5	0
Rattigan, G. E.	0	10	0
Soames, H. A., Rev., M.A.	0	10	0
Southcombe, S. T.	0	10	6
Street, E.	0	10	6
Sich, H. L.	0	10	0
Scott, J. Easton, M.B.	2	2	0
Scott, Mrs. J. Easton	2	2	0
St. A. Wait, Miss Louisa	1	10	0
Simpson, R. E.	0	5	0
Suggitt, R.	2	2	0
Sutcliffe, A.	2	2	0

	£	s.	d.
Teschemaker, W. E., B.A.	2	2	0
Thwaites, G. B., Dr.	0	10	6
Thorburn, C. W.	0	5	0
Willford, N.	0	5	0
Willford, H.	1	0	0
Wilson, F. M.	0	10	0
	£75	4	6

The Club Dinner.

A Dinner to meet Wesley T. Page, Esq., and to close the special testimonial fund will be held at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, February 4th (the date of the L.P.O.S. Show) at 6-45 for 7 o'clock prompt. The charge per head will be 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d., the cost being largely determined by the number present.

All members and their wives are cordially invited, and it is earnestly hoped that a special effort will be made by all to be present. Evening dress *not* desired.

Special Notice.

Will those who can join us at this function kindly favour me with a post card intimating their intention, so that adequate and suitable arrangements may be made

Address to:—

W. T. ROGERS,
Weald View,
Ongar Road,
Brentwood, Essex.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with many thanks the following donations:

Miss R. Alderson	5	0
E. Sprankling	5	0
Miss F. M. Wilson	10	0

New Members Elected.

Mrs. W. H. Read, 105, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.
L. G. Pike, King Barrow, Wareham, Dorset.
Arthur O'Neil, 25 Eldred Street, Carlisle.
Thos. Holmes, 46, Aglionby Street, Carlisle.
Mrs. C. H. Williams, Emmanuel Parsonage, Exeter
Mrs. G. L. Roberts, 132, Queen's Road, London, W.
Miss Alfreda Smyth, 40 Davenport Road, Catford, S.E.
Arthur Sills, 260, Loughborough Road, Leiceste
H. E. Warren,-Williams, L.D.S., Woodcote Lodge, Wallington,
The Hon. Vere D. Boscawen, 2, St. James' Square, London, W.
A. Ezra, 110, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.
Mrs. Thorpe, 31, Castleton Road, West Kensington, London, W.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. Sproston, Elm House, Nantwich, Cheshire.

By B. Hollins.

H. M. Fisher-Rowe, St. Leonard's Grange, Beaulieu, Hants.

Dr. Philip Gosse.

P. H. Sellars, 81, Hyndland Street, Patrick, Scotland.

By O. Millsum.

H. Newcome-Wright, L.L.B., Westholme, Sandal, Nr. Wakefield.

A. C. Lorde, 342, West Main Street, Lexington, Fayette Co., Ky. U.S.A.

By the Hon. Editor.

The Bird Market.

**All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.
Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,**

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES : All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at /- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which are /6.

Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne.

FOR SALE : *The Bird World*, 2 parts, all issued, as new, 3/6 lot.

Apply The PUBLISHER.

AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Letters only.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham. Surrey.

IN RESPONSE to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1/6, with larger proportion of animal matter 2/- and 2/6 per lb. W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham, Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE. Vols. 1, 2, 3 of *Bird Notes*. Vols. 1 and 2 are *out of print* and Vol. 3 nearly so, occasional copies come into the Hon. Bus. Sec. hands as above, which are all in new condition. Vol. 1 and 2, 21s. each, Vol. 3, 15s.—Apply the Hon. Bus. Sec., Upland View, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight.

FOR SALE. Cocks: Black-headed Weaver *(H. melanocephalus)*, 5/6. Half-masked Weaver, 4/6. Pair Indian Silverbills, 4/6. Cock, Grey Singing Finch, 5/-. Hen Pin-tail Whydah, 2/6. Thoroughly acclimatised.—Simpson, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds.

FOR SALE, Purple-naped Lory, healthy and in fine condition. V.H.C. Horticultural Hall, price £3 10s. Offer wanted for 2 large wicker cages suitable for doves and one brass parrakeet cage, these are old cages, but clean and serviceable. Space wanted.—Miller, 27 Belgrave Road, S.W.

FOR SALE: All my winning Show Birds (Foreign and British): Brown's Parrakeet, Levalliant's Barbet, pair Painted Finches, Black-shouldered Tanager, Tri-coloured Tanager, Lear's All Blue Macaw (very tame), Green-billed Toucan, Lesser Whitethroat, Robin and Black Redstart (hand reared), Champion Blackbird. List of winnings and prices on application.—Beaty, Strathnarn, Alderley Edge.

WANTED: Pair adult Zebra Finches. Following Hens: Pin-tail Nonpareil, Pekin Robin, Rosey Pastor, and Chingolo Sparrow (*Zonotrichia pileata*). Cock Rain Quail and Pair of Chinese Buntings (*Emberiza rutila*). Must be acclimatised.—Philip Gosse, Beaulieu, Hants.

FOR EXCHANGE: A fine cock Californian Quail in perfect condition, bred in my aviary last year; would like to exchange for healthy hen.—H. B. Larner, Holt, Norfolk.

B. HOLLINS, 9 GEORGE ST. HULL. For all classes of Foreign and British Birds, Waterfowl, etc. Kept under *hygienic conditions*, in large unheated aviaries (indoor and outdoor). Lists free. GUARANTEED FREE FROM FEVER. My premises are clean and airy. A trial order solicited.—B. Hollins, 9, George Street, Hull.

Reprint from the *Hull Daily Mail* of Dec. 22nd, 1910: "Birds and live stock as *Christmas* gifts are appreciated by not a few lovers of animals and birds, and those who have any thoughts in this direction should pay a visit to Mr. Bernard Hollins' bird and live stock stores, 9, George Street, Hull, where they will be conducted through the various show rooms, containing many specimens of live stock. Cleanliness is one of the main studies of the proprietor. There is a large variety of birds in the aviaries and the "Zoo" contains many kinds of animals. Mr. Hollins' is the largest importer of St. Andreasberg and Hartz mountain canaries in the North of England, and he undertakes that every bird sold is in first-class condition. A speciality is made in food material, all seeds being carefully selected and blended. The food sold is precisely similar to that upon which the stock is fed. All kinds of British birds, Yorkshire and Norwich canaries, are kept in stock. Brass and wire cages, breeding-cages, aquariums, aviaries, and fish globes, are always on hand."

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Roll: We regret that rather numerous errors have crept in, largely owing to the Hon. Editor being away, and matters being very rushed at time of going to press. Several corrections are made in this issue. Will members kindly notify us of any others there may be? We regret that some of the names are not in proper alphabetical sequence.

The Present Issue: This, both in bulk and plates is more than we shall be able to give regularly, but owing to show reviews, etc., the excess is practically unavoidable. There will have to be smaller issues later to level up.

Subscriptions: We would remind members that prompt payment of these is necessary for the facile working of the club, also, so as to conserve the time of the hon. officials and avoid unnecessary expenditure for postage.

F.B. Classification: Attention is drawn to the remarks of our esteemed Exhibitional Secretary on page 24 of inset, and we certainly hope, that all interested in the exhibiting of Foreign Birds will express their views, *that some practical result may be achieved.* The correspondence section of our Magazine is open for this purpose.

Late Issue: We regret the tardy appearance of January issue of the Club Journal, which was occasioned by the troublesome character of the colouration, of the Blue Budgerigar plate.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sec.*

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with many thanks the following donations to the Illustration Fund:—

J. Hume	0	5	0
J. E. W. Meadows	0	5	0
Mrs. K. L. Miller	1	10	0
T. Miller (three year scheme)	1	0	0
Lady Pilkington	0	10	0
F. G. R. Roth	0	6	0
W. Smith (Redruth)	0	5	0
The Countess of Winchelsea (three year scheme)	1	1	0

The Hon. Editor's Testimonial Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously received …………	75	1	6
Miss R. Alderson ………………………	0	5	0
H. J. Flannery ………………………	0	5	0
J. H. Harrison ………………………	0	5	0
G. E. Haggie ………………………	0	10	0
Miss C. R. Little ………………………	0	10	0
J. Lewis ………………………………	1	0	0
C. H. Robinson ………………………	1	1	0
La Countessa G. Tomassi Baldelli …	1	0	0
Winchelsea and Nottingham, the Countess of ………………………	2	2	0
Wrottesley, the Hon. W. B., F.Z.S.	1	0	0
Total amount received …………………	83	8	0

In the list of donors in January issue, several names were wrongly given as under:—

Mrs. C. Anninson should be *Anningson.*

Mrs. Pattison Geoman should be *Yeoman.*

W. Oatrey should be *Oakey.*

G. H. Raynor should be *Rev. G. H. Raynor.*

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

Allen Silver, 3 Gateley Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

F. G. R. Roth, Sherwood Place, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A.

C. T. Maxwell, 1 Shardcroft Avenue, Herne Hill, Surrey.

T. Newbold, Heathcote, Malton, R.S.O., Yorks.

Harold T. Boyd, Box 374, Thelowna, British Columbia.

Errata re roll

H. D. ASTLEY, M.A., ETC., After Valence add Speen, and for Bucks read *Berks.*

BROTHERTON, K., for Clackmaggonshire read *Clackmannanshire.*

GALLOWAY, MRS. E., after Finchley, add London, N.

GOODFELLOW, W., Mount Fleuri, Southbourne, Grove, Bournemouth.

HORTON, L. W., for Wolverampton read *Wolverhampton.*

JOHNSON, H. V., for Chambers Road read *Chambres Road.*

LAMB, E. J., for New Maiden read *New Malden.*

MITCHELL, H., Haskells, Lyndhurst, Hants.

NEWBOLD, T. H., F.Z.S., strike out as duplicate.

PAUVVELS, R. E., after Cortenberg, add Brabant.

STUART-WORTLEY, Mrs., Dock House, Beaulieu, Hants.

TRAVIS-TRAVIS, Mrs., for Redmore Grange, read *Pedmore Grange.*

Vollmar, P., 8, George Street, Minories, London, E.C.
Williams, Sydney, F.Z.S., Holland Lodge, Edmonton, London, N.

Members are requested to correct their lists as above.—Ed.

Obituary-

Miss L. Peacock, Springmead, Sidcup, Kent, on Jan. 8th.

New Members Elected.

Mrs. Sproston, Elm House, Nantwich, Cheshire.
H. M. Fisher-Rowe, St. Leonard's Grange, Beaulieu, Hants.
P. H. Sellars, 81, Hyndland Street, Patrick, Scotland.
H. Newcome-Wright, L.L.B., Westholme, Sandal, Nr. Wakefield.
A. C. Loode, 342, West Main Street, Lexington, Fayette Co., Ky., U.S.A.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Kenneth Hart, Kingsmead, Windsor. *By Dr. M. Amsler.*

Douglas Wardleworth, M.B , Ch.B., St. Nicholas, Sheringham, R.S.O,, Norfolk. *By H. B. Larner*

Leigh Clarke, Tower Hirst, Stoke Bishop, Bristol. *By H. Willford.*

Mrs. J. McIntyre, Muchall, Near Wolverhampton, Staffs. *By Hayward W. Mathias, F.R.H.S.*

M. Mace, 76, Blonk Street, Sheffield.
H. Sheldon, Holly House, Chingford, Essex. *By Chas. Harris.*

Stanley Mappin, 12, Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, London, S.W. *By W. R. Temple.*

Lady Webster, Powdermill House, Battle, Sussex. *By Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley.*

James E. Rothwell, Sewall Avenue, Brookline, Mass., U.S.A. *By W. H. Browning.*

David Bentley, 80, St. Hubert's Street, Great Harwood, Lancs. *By The Hon. Editor.*

H. S Joyce, 36 Hawthorn Grove, Anerley. *By S. Williams, jun.*

C. R. Tyson, 169, Sloane Street, Chelsea, London, S.W. *By Tinniswood Miller.*

A. Morris, Broadway Chambers, Ilford, Essex. *By J. Frostick.*

John Graham, Rainbow Hotel, Kendal. *By J. Smith.*

The Bird Market.

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MAGPIE in beautiful condition, with Show Cage, 20s. Several Cages to clear cheap.—Dr. Snell, Wandsworth Common.

WANTED: A Grey Parrot, must be acclimatised, and in perfect condition.—young bird preferred. —Apply Hon. Editor *Bird Notes,* Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

ALL the following thoroughly acclimatised and in good condition: Cock Long-tailed Glossy Starling, 25s.; Pair Malabar Starlings £3; Pair White-throated Laughing Thrushes £3; Cock Olive Backed Thrush, fine songster, 20s.; Pair Blue Tanagers £3.; Pair Maroon Tanagers, 35s.; Pair Black Tanagers, 30s.; Pair Rufous-throated Sugar Birds, 30s. (all true pairs); Cock Black-winged Grackle, 10s.; Black and Yellow Hang-nest, 20s.; Mocking bird, defective wing, 10s.; Violet Tanager Cock, 7s. 6d., on approval.—A. Sutcliffe, Field House, Grimsby.

PAIR Dusky Finches *(Phonipara bicolor),* 25s.; Two American Cat Birds, 20s. each; Pair Jacarini Finches, 12s. 6d. Pair Grey Finches *(Spermophila grisea),* 9s.; Hen Aurora Finch, 5s.; cock Guttural Finch, 5s.; Hen Red-whiskered Bulbul, 5s. —R. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes.

D DeVon & Co.—We shall receive 4,000 Australian Birds, consisting of Gouldians, Ruficaudas, Grass Finches, Masked Finches; Double Bands, Plume, and other Doves, etc. about the end of February. We are now booking orders for same. We have at present the largest and cleanest stock in England, price-lists free.—De Von and Co., 114 Bethnal Green Road, London. Telegraph Address Oiseaux, London. Telephone 5489 London Wall.

FOR SALE: True pair of Festive Tanagers, acclimatized and in perfect condition, would probably breed. Price £6-0 0. Mrs. Miller, 27, Belgrave Road, S.W.

GREEN BUDGERIGARS: Last year's birds, all outdoor aviary bred, healthy, 5s., 4s. per pair. Mrs. Read, 105, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

WANTED: Gold-fronted Honeysucker *(Chloropsis aurifrons).*—Reply, stating price, Wrottesley, Seisdon, Apsley End, Hemel Hempsted.

Review of Bird Market.

Perhaps the most noteworthy item is the expected arrival of 4,000 Australian Grassfinches, etc., by Messrs. DeVon (see advert. in this issue)—they are also offering a Pied Grallina or Magpie Lark, as well as numerous other Senegal, African, and Indian Finches, and Waxbills.

Patagonian Conures, Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, Peruvian Jays, Glossy Cowbirds, Specifer, and White Peafowl, Japanese and Chinese

Teal, Californian Quail, and many others are being offered by A. E. Jamrach, 180 St. George Street, E.

Many species of foreign Doves and Pheasants; also Buntings, etc., are being offered by B. Hollins, 9 George Street, Hull (see advert. in this issue).

C. A. Leur of 32, East Street, Walworth Road, London, is offering the usual species of Mannikins, Finches, Waxbills, etc., also Senegal Glossy Starlings, Black Seed Finches, Shamas, Pekin Robins, Chinese Painted Quail, Bearded Tits, etc.

H. D. Hamlyn, of 221 St. George Street, E., is offering the usual species of Weavers, Waxbills, and Small Ornamental Finches; also White Java Sparrows, L. T. Glossy Starlings, Black and Pied Mynahs, Purple-capped Lories, Ceram Lories, Shamas, Dyal Bird, Blue Grosbeaks, Troupials, and several species of Conures.

W. T. P.

The Show Season,

The following is a list of Medal winners not previously announced:

NORWICH. Not awarded (only one member put F.B.C. after entries).

PRESTON. Silver Medal, Mr. J. H. Harrison.

BIRMINGHAM. Silver Medal, Mr. F. Howe.

EDINBURGH. Silver Medal, Mr. J. M. Walsh.

LUTON. Bronze Medal, Mr. J. M. Walsh.

L. and P.O.S. 2 Silver Medals, (1) Mr. R. Pauvvels, (2) Mr. C. T. Maxwell, not awarded as he had previously won one this season.

The Member winning most points this season for both the London and Provincial Cups, is Mr. F. Howe. The London Cup has been previously won once by Mr. O. Millsum and the Provincial Cup once by Miss Peddie Waddell, Mr. O. Millsum and Mr. Harrison respectively.

A great deal of unnecessary trouble has been caused this year by mistakes appearing in catalogues and exhibitors not calling attention to them. In future if any member notices a printers error in the catalogue, concerning his entries, I shall be obliged if he will ask the Show Secretary to notify me.

The Show Committee are thinking of trying to revise some of our classifications and will be glad of any practical suggestions from members, but they must remember that we are limited by Show Secretaries as to the number of classes; and state whether their suggestions apply to a classification of 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 or 12 classes.

S. M. TOWNSEND.

Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

CLUB MEETINGS: The first of these will take place on Wednesday, May 17th, rendezvous: Small Bird House, Zoological Gardens, Regents Park, at 2 p.m. It is suggested that a small badge be worn, bearing the letters F.B.C. It is hoped members will make early application for same—cost will be very small—if not ready for the first meeting, a copy of *Bird Notes'* carried in the hand will form a ready means of recognition. We should be glad to receive the views of members as to these gatherings and suggestions as to arrangements, etc., so that the maximum of interest, help, and pleasure, may be obtained from same.

It has not been possible to get the facsimile of illuminated address, presented to the Hon. Editor, ready for this issue; it will appear in April issue.

THE MAGAZINE: We would point out, that if any member or members consider any section of the magazine weak, that is, small in comparison to other sections, the remedy is obvious—send in copy or requests for articles on the subjects required—we can only deal with copy sent in, and if there is any felt want, such must be expressed or copy sent in to meet it. The remedy, it will be seen is entirely in members' hands. We request copy on British species, Parrots, Parrakeets, Cockatoos, Macaws, Lories, etc., Doves, Pigeons, Quails, Partridges, Pheasants, Cranes, Storks; also Owls, Hawks, and Birds of Prey generally.

The CLUB'S MEDAL: A medal has been awarded to Mrs. A. Mahon for breeding the White-eared Bulbul *(P. leucotis)* for the first time in Great Britain.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Sec.*

Illustration Fund.

The committee acknowledge with many thanks the following donations to the Illustration Fund:—

Dr. J. E. Scott (three years' scheme)	3	3	0
Rev. R. E. Gorringe	0	10	0
Mrs. D. L. Hubbard	0	5	0
E. J. Lamb	0	5	0
Miss V. Maggs	0	10	0
N. S. O'Reilly (3 years' scheme)	1	0	0
Rev. J. M. Paterson (3 years' scheme)	0	10	0
Mrs. Perreau	0	2	6
R. Suggitt (3 years' scheme)	0	10	0

The Hon. Editor's Testimonial Fund.

Amounts already acknowledged, Jan. ……				75	4	6
Amounts already acknowledged, Feb. ……				7	18	0
H. Wardale …………………………………				0	10	0
				83	12	6
Corrections:—						
Jan.—N. S. O'Reilly, £2 should be £1 deduct …………………………………	1	0	0			
Jan.—Hon. Mrs. Bourke, 20s. should be 21s. add …………………………………	0	1	0			
Feb.—J. H. Harrison, 5s., should be 10s. 6d. add …………………………………	0	5	6			
Deduct …………………………………				0	13	6
Total …………………………………				82	19	0
Expenses:—						
Circular to Members—J. H. Henstock …	1	18	4			
Illuminated Address—W. B. Lasham ……	4	0	0	5	18	4
Balance handed to H. Willford (Hon. Treasurer). …………………………………				77	0	8

W. T. Rogers, Hon. Secretary to Testimonial Fund.
A. Sutcliffe, Hon. Treasurer to Testimonial Fund.

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

Rev. E. Gorringe, Manston Rectory, Sturminster, Newton, Dorset.
H. S. Joyce, 9, Werndee Road, S. Norwood, London, S.E.
Mrs. C. Brown, Seton Lodge, Becon Road, Henleaze, Bristol.

New Members Elected.

Kenneth Hart, Kingsmead, Windsor.

Douglas Wardleworth, M.B., Ch.B., St. Nicholas, Sheringham, Norfolk, R.S.O.

Leigh Clarke, Tower Hirst, Stoke Bishop, Bristol.

Mrs. J. McIntyre, Muchall, Near Wolverhampton, Staffs.

M. Mace, 76, Blonk Street, Sheffield.

H. Sheldon, Holly House, Chingford, Essex.

Stanley Mappin, 12, Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, London, S.W.

Lady Webster, Powdermill House, Battle, Sussex.

James E. Rothwell, Sewall Avenue, Brookline, Mass., U.S.A.

David Bentley, 80, St. Hubert's Street, Great Harwood, Lancs.
H. S. Joyce, 9, Werndee Road, S. Norwood, London, S.E.
C. R. Tyson, 169, Sloane Street, Chelsea, London, S.W.
A. Morris, Broadway Chambers, Ilford, Essex.
John Graham, Rainbow Hotel, Kendal.

Proposed for Election as Members.

J. Ford, 258, Wellford Road, Leicester.
By Hayward, W. Mathias, F.R.H.S.
H. S. Dean, The Limes, Clifton Street, Wolverhampton.
Col. F. S. Walters, Rougemont, St. John's Park, Ryde, I of W.
By Henry Willford.
H. Snarey, 21, Leamington Road, Blackburn.
By J. M. Walsh.
Chas. Isaac, Somerton, Bath Road, Slough.
By T. Miller, F.Z.S.

Transfer from Associate to Members Roll.

Miss M. Greeven, 29, Queensborough Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W.

The Bird Market.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny. minimum 4d. Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

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MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

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WANTED: A Grey Parrot, must be acclimatised, and in perfect condition.—young bird preferred. —Apply Hon. Editor *Bird Notes*, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Golden Pheasant Cocks, 15s. each, young, in splendid plumage.—Mrs. Croysdale, Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.

THE Hon. Editor can recommend an experienced Aviary Attendant.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

THE

ZOO

HULL.

If you require birds (Foreign and British), Canaries, all varieties, Parrots, Parrakeets, rare birds, Siberian birds (Goldfinches, hen Bullfinches, direct importation, no second quality sold by me), Water-fowl, Pheasants, Rheas, Peacocks, Swans (lakes stocked and every advice given on the the keeping of same). Aviaries built and stocked ; cages of all descriptions (wood and wire), manufactured by experienced workmen. Animal cages built ; accessories, portable aviaries, etc. Steamers arriving daily from Australia, India, America, Africa, Russia, with live stock of all description.

All stock kept under sanitary conditions, guaranteed free from fever, or any disease. Veterinary surgeon on staff. Aviaries visited, and expert advice given on all stock.

Stock of all descriptions bought or sold on commission, or exchanged.

Seeds, foods, and all kinds of utensils stocked. Whatever you require, write at once. Letters have every attention (orders or otherwise).

Lists Free for stamp ($\frac{1}{2}$d.)

B. HOLLINS, B.E.N.A. Proprietor, The Zoo, HULL.

Patronised by Royalty.

IN RESPONSE to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1/6, with larger proportion of animal matter 2/- and 2/6 per lb. W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham, Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED: Hen Painted Finch, and Hen Cordon-Bleu. Birds must be acclimatised.—Mathias, Stubbington, Hants.

WANTED: Hen Rosy Pastor; Hen Pintail Nonpariel; Cock Red-rump Parrakeet; Pair Cape Sparrows; Pair Zebra Finches. —Philip Gosse, Beaulieu, Hants.

WANTED: Pair Gouldian Finches (Red-head Cock, and Black-head Hen preferred); Hen Hooded Siskin; Hen St. Helena Seedeater. Must be acclimatised.—Miss Chawner, Lyndhurst, Hants.

WANTED: Cock Blue Grosbeak; Hen Painted, and Californian Quails. For Sale: Cock Painted, and Rain Quails, 7s. 6d. each. —Dr. Amsler, Eton, Windsor.

TROPICAL Butterflies, Beetles, and Insects, of all orders: The series is very numerous and consists of many very fine specimens of Ornithoptera, Papilio and Morphinœ, many very rare—set and unset—in cases and cartons. Separately or in one lot. Any reasonable offer accepted.—Apply in first instance, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

NON-MEMBER'S ADVERTISEMENT.

FOR Tanagers, Amazons, and other stocks from West Indies and South America.—Hayter, Importer, Southampton. Established 1880.

Review of the Bird Market.

The most important arrival for aviculturists this month is a large consignment of Australian birds, which landed on March 4th. I had the pleasure of inspecting them at the premises of D. De Von and Co. immediately after their arrival. Something like 4,000 birds were to be seen, including the following species: Red Headed and Black Headed Gouldians, Bircheno's, Masked and and Long-tail Grass Finches, about six Crimson Finches, several Bronze Wing and Plumed Doves, and a few pairs of Red-naped Lorikeets.

The whole consignment looked in first class order. It is unfortunate that no Painted Finches have arrived, but owing to the difficulty in obtaining them, I understand very few are likely to be imported in future.

R. J. WATTS.

A very hurried review of the dealers' lists, etc., reveals a goodly array of beautiful and uncommon species, which may be procured as under, from the respective establishments, at all of which may also be procured all the freely imported species.

A .E. Jamrach, 180 St. George Street, London, E. Pied Grallina or Magpie Lark; Snowy Egrets; Red-collared Lorikeets; White-winged, Patagonian, and Golden-crowned Conures; Grass-green Yellow-collared and Tovi Parrakeets; Textor, and Yellow Weavers; Plumed Doves, Grey Cardinals, Peruvian Purple Cowbirds, Peruvian Jays, Red Macaws; Chinese Painted and Californian Quails.

J. D. Hamlyn, 221, St. George's St., London, E. Black, Golden-crowned, Pied, White, and Hill Mynahs; Golden Oriole, Shamas, Hunting Cissas, Blue Pies; Red-crested, and Virginian Cardinals; Canary-winged, and Quaker Parrakeets; All Green, and Patagonian Conures; Banksian, and Lemon-crested Cockatoos; Scarlet and Blue Tanagers; Spot-billed Toucanotte, Ceram Lory; Blue Grosbeak, various Australian and African Finches, Weavers, etc.

C. A. Leur, 32 East Street, Walworth Road, London, S.E. Mannikins in variety; Cutthroats, Cordon Bleus, Firefinches, Lovebirds, Weavers, Glossy Starlings, Troupials, etc., in variety.

These notes might easily be made of more general interest, if members calling at the various dealers would send in brief reviews of what they see, and these ought not to be confined to London only, but should be general.

W.T.P.

List of Coloured Plates

(By request), which have been published in *Bird Notes*. 1s. each, with he exception of a "Beautiful Aviary," which is 1s. 6d.

Tricolour Tanager
Black-backed „
Gold and Green „
Superb „
Blue and Maroon „
Black-cheeked „
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit Pigeon
Golden-crowned Conure
Hawk-headed Caique
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugar Bird
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Painted Finch
Sepoy Finch
Blue Budgerigars
The Uvæan Parrakeet
Gouldian Finch
Waxwing
Bronze Cuckoo
Group of Spermophilæ
Mexican or Green Jay
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogon
Leclancher or Rainbow Bunting
Flame-breasted Flower Pecker
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Senegal Parroty
Violet or Dusk Parrot
Uvæan Parrot
Black-winged Lory
Stella's Lory
A Beautiful Aviary (1/6)
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

SUBSCRIPTION: We would remind members that for the facile working of the club's affairs on business lines, it is necessary that subscriptions be paid promptly. We would ask that those who have not remitted their subscriptions for the current year will please do so at once, as having to make postal application for same is not only an unnecessary charge on the funds, but adds considerably to the already *heavy* work of the club's honorary officials.

MEMBERS' GATHERINGS: As already announced the first of these take place at the Zoo on Wednesday, May 17th. *Rendezvous*, Small Bird House, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, at 2 p.m.

BREEDING RECORDS: We hope *all* members will keep a strict record of results, and send same for publication periodically—this is a matter of general interest and *all* should take a share in contributing to same. Medals are awarded for breeding a species for the first time in Great Britain, and to members residing abroad for species *not previously bred in captivity*. A claim must be put in within a month of the event taking place, and a detailed account of the success must be sent for publishing in the Club Journal.

BREEDING PARRAKEETS: Will some members who specialise in the *Psittacidæ* kindly send in an article on breeding the more commonly imported species?

THE CLUB'S MEDAL: A medal has been awarded to Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, for breeding the White-cheeked Crested Quail *(Eupsychortyx leucopogon)* for the first time in Great Britain. See Vol. I., N.S., p. 319.

Bird Protection By -Laws.

Mr. Allen Silver wishes to express his indebtedness to those who have so kindly complied with his request in signing petitions. We hope to very shortly send same in now.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Secretary.*

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

D. Dewar, Fyzabad, U.P., India.

Miss Jardine, 11, Ashburnam Mansions, Chelsea, London, S.W.

Miss Hadden, c/o Alex Brooke, Esq., 34, Craven Hill Gardens, Bayswater, London, W.

E. W. Harper, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U:, Government Road, Nairobi, British East Africa.

T. Newbould, "Heathcote," Martin, S.O., Yorks.

New Members Elected.

J. Ford, 258, Wellford Road, Leicester.
H. S. Dean, The Limes, Clifton Street, Wolverhampton.
Col. F. S. Walters, Rougemont, St. John's Park, Ryde, I of W.
H. Snarey, 21, Leamington Road, Blackburn.
Chas. Isaac, Somerton, Bath Road, Slough.

Proposed for Election as Members.

George Fletcher, 19 Peveral Road, Encliffe, Sheffield.
By C. Harris.
Rev J. A. T. Lovell Beazor, 60 Upgate, Louth, Lincs.
Miss Allott, The Firs, Louth, Lincs.
By Mrs. W. P. Travis.
Mrs. Davidson, Yew Tree Cottage, Bitterne, Southampton.
Miss McDonald, Meadow Bank, Hollington Park, St. Leonards-on-Sea. *By Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley.*
Sir Ronald J. Corbet, Bt., Acton Reynold, Shrewsbury.
By H. D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., Etc.
L. W. Wood, Hazlehurst, Doncaster Road, Barnsley.
By J. Mace.
Mrs. Marshall, Marrowells, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.
By Mrs. Croysdale.
J. W. Allan, Bondgate, Alnwick.
By J. H. Henstock.
Chilton B. Hall, Pedregosa and Laguna, North West Corner, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A.
By the Hon. Editor.
George Chapman, 25, High Street, Birmingham.
By C. Harris.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations to Illustration Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Miss M. E. Baker (three year scheme)	1	0	0
Mrs. B. W. Hodkin	0	5	6
T. Holmes	0	5	0
A. J. B. O'Neill	0	7	6
W. E. Teschemaker (Medal Fund)	0	6	0

The Bird Market.

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FOR SALE: Private Consignment—Grey-headed Owzels, £6 pair; Streaked Laughing Thrushes, 25s. each; Black Bulbul, 25s.; Blue-fronted Redstart (perfect), £6; Dyhal (♀); Giant Barbets (believed to be a true pair), £6; 2 pairs Orange-headed Ground Thrushes (believed to be pairs, but sexes cannot be guaranteed) £5 per pair.—Lieut. Kennedy, 7 Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey.

TROPICAL Butterflies, Beetles, and Insects, of all orders: The series is very numerous and consists of many very fine specimens of Ornithoptera, Papilio and Morphinœ, many very rare—set and unset—in cases and cartons. Separately or in one lot. Any reasonable offer accepted.—Apply in first instance, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

TWO Aviary-bred 1910 Red Crested Cardinals; in outdoor Aviary all winter, 7s. 6d. each.—Hamilton Scott, Hamildean, Ipswich.

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If you require birds (Foreign and British), Canaries, all varieties, Parrots, Parrakeets, rare birds, Siberian birds (Goldfinches, hen Bullfinches, direct importation, no second quality sold by me), Water-fowl, Pheasants, Rheas, Peacocks, Swans (lakes stocked and every advice given on the the keeping of same). Aviaries built and stocked ; cages of all descriptions (wood and wire), manufactured by experienced workmen. Animal cages built ; accessories, portable aviaries, etc. Steamers arriving daily from Australia, India, America, Africa, Russia, with live stock of all description.

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Lists Free for stamp (½d.)

B. HOLLINS, B.E.N.A. Proprietor, The Zoo, HULL.

Patronised by Royalty.

FOR SALE: Black, Crimson Crowned, All Green, and other Tanagers, Purple and Yellow-winged Sugarbirds, Hangnests, Peruvian Jays, and other species; all healthy.—H. Willford, Upland View, Haven Street, I. of W.

D. DE VON. and Co., 114 Bethnal Green Road, London, has adult breeding Budgerigars, 5s. pair, Young Budgerigars, 3s. 6d. pair. Husk Nests, 5d. each, 3s. 6d. per dozen. Zebra Finches 7s. 6d. pair; Scarlet Tanagers 18s. each. Thousands of other birds in stock. See price lists. Telegraphic address: Oiseaux, London. Telephone: 5489 London Wall.

WANTED: Hen Red-headed Gouldian, also pair Parrot Finches, must be acclimatised.—Southcombe, Heskin, Taunton.

FOREIGN Cage-bird Societies' Reports, Vol. I. (June 1890—May 1892) bound. Vol. II. (June 1892—May 1893) bound. Vol. III. (June 1893—May 1894) unbound. "Bird Notes," Vol.

I. bound. Vol II. nine consecutive numbers; offers wanted. Gedney's Foreign Cage Birds, 2 Vols., published 8s. 6d., very scarce, 15s. Vol II. Waxbills, &c., 5s.—John Frostick Endlesham Road, Balham.

RARE British Birds: Dartford Warbler, Lesser-spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Blackcap, Robin, Carrion Crow (handreared), Two-barred Crossbill, Snow Bunting, Bullfinches. Acclimatised foreign birds:—Himalayan Lanceolated Jay, Alexandrine Parrakeet (talks a little), Pekin Robin (guaranteed cock). Insectivorous Birds' Food 1s. 10d. lb., free; 20 lbs. 20s. carr. forward.—John Frostick, Endlesham Road, Balham.

WANTED: Black-cheeked Lovebird. Must be guaranteed Cock. —D. Croisdale Kirk, Llanishen, Cardiff.

WANTED: "Bird Notes," Vol. I., First Series, bound or in loose parts.—Apply, J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

FOR SALE: Cock Virginian Cardinal, healthy and acclimatised, price 35s.; also Rare Striated Tanager, healthy, acclimatised, and perfect plumage, price £2.—Mrs. Miller, 27, Belgrave Road, S.W.

FOR SALE: An exceptionally good Painted Finch Cock. Bird has been in my possession for a year. Is in fine condition and plumage. Price 55s. Wanted: The following Hens—Cuban, Painted, and Cordon Bleu. Also pairs of Diamond Doves, and Pintail Nonpareils.—H. Mathias, Stubbington, Hants.

WANTED: Pair Violet-eared Waxbills, or single Cock. Must be acclimatised—Leigh Clarke, Tower Hirst, Stoke Bishop, Bristol.

WANTED: Copies of "Bird Notes" for January, 1910.—J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Review of the Bird Market.

This is unavoidably held over till next issue.

List of Coloured Plates

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Hawk-headed Caique
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Yellow-winged Sugar Bird
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Painted Finch
Sepoy Finch
Blue Budgerigars
The Uvæan Parrakeet
Loo-Choo Robin.
Gouldian Finch
Waxwing
Bronze Cuckoo
Group of Spermophilæ
Mexican or Green Jay
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogon
Leclancher or Rainbow Bunting
Flame-breasted Flower Pecker
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Senegal Parroty
Violet or Dusk Parrot
Uvæan Parrot
Black-winged Lory
Stella's Lory
A Beautiful Aviary (1/6)
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: We much regret the tardy appearance of this issue, also the non-appearance of the coloured plate. Though the issue has been held back, it has not been possible to get it ready. The Sunbird plate will appear in June issue, and members must see that it is placed in proper position when getting the volume bound at the end of the year.

Member's Meetings: The first of these took place on May 17th, when we were favoured with fine weather, and those present had a most enjoyable and interesting time. The following were present: Mrs. J. Easton Scott, Mrs. Warren-Williams, and Messrs. C. Isaacs, T. G. Nicolson, H. Goodchild, W. Swaysland, C. R. Tyson, and W. T. Page.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, June 22nd *rendezvous*, Small Bird House, Zoological Gardens, at 11 a.m., and also at the same place at 2 p.m. for those unable to be present in the morning. We hope to have sample Club Badges ready for this occasion.

Our Membership: For the first time for many months there are no candidates for membership this month. Will all members do what they can to induce others to join, as the maintainence of the club journal, *Bird Notes*, at its present standard, depends entirely on a largely increased membership.

HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Sec.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Post Mortem Reports, *Continued from p. 160*,

Red-crested Cardinal. (B. Hamilton Scott, Ipswich). This bird died from the effects of *true* bird fever. The liver and spleen were much enlarged and crammed full with yellowish nodular looking spots.

It is very contagious and always fatal. Isolate, disinfect, etc.

Have you purchased any fresh birds of late ? And if so where ?

Indian Mynah. (Dr. Philip Gosse, Hants). The Indian Mynah died from parasitic peritonitis, the organised exudate of which had glued all the visceral organs together. There were two round worms about 3 inches in length, and of the diameter of carpet thread, lying free in the peritoneal cavity. I will endeavour to get the species identified.

Similar parasites are often found free in the peritoneal cavity, without setting up any gross lesion in the Starling tribe, Wheatears, etc. They often cause death by an exhaustive emaciation.

Received label only from the Hon. Mary C. Hawke, evidently the parcel was lost in transit through the post. I also received a label from some unknown member.

Has any M.F.B.C. encountered in freshly imported Budgerrigars a disease manifested by expulsion of liquid material from the mouth, and a liquid distension of the crop? It seems contagious as it is spread from the recently introduced bird to the old inmates of the aviary.

Yellow Budgerigar (♂) (J. Smith, Kendal). The cause of death was pneumonia. In all probability the change of surroundings predisposed the bird to the malady.

Madagascar Weaver (♂). Chas. H. Robinson, Grosmont, Yorks.) The cause of reath was a septicaemia, due to the surroundings of the bird-trade, and a want of acclimatisation of the birds. It is not a true contagious malady like bird-fever.

Blood-rump Parrakeet (♂). (Dr. Philip Gosse ,Hants. The testicles were very minute, being no larger than a millet seed, and indicating that the bird was not in a breeding condition. The cause of death was pneumonia.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations to Illustration Fund:—

Mrs. G. Henderson	0	11	0
W. T. Rogers	0	10	0

New Members Elected.

George Fletcher, 19 Peveral Road, Encliffe, Sheffield.
Rev J. A. T. Lovell Beazor, 60 Upgate, Louth, Lincs.
Miss Allott, The Firs, Louth, Lincs.
Mrs. Davidson, Yew Tree Cottage, Bitterne, Southampton.
Miss McDonald, Meadow Bank, Hollington Park, St. Leonards-on-
Sir Ronald J. Corbet, Bt., Acton Reynold, Shrewsbury.

L. W. Wood, Hazlehurst, Doncaster Road, Barnsley.

Mrs. Marshall, Marrowells, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

J. W. Allan, Bondgate, Alnwick.

Chilton B. Hall, Pedregosa and Laguna, North West Corner, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A.

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THE Hon. Editor can recommend an experienced Aviary Attendant.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

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WANTED: Hen Diamond Dove, Cock Red-rump Parrakeet, Hen Rosy Pastor.Parrakeet, Hen Rosy Pastor.—P. Gosse, Curtlemead, Beaulieu, **Hants.**

FOR SALE: Yellow-wing Sugarbirds 30s. each; Brazilian Hangnests 20s. each; true pair Brown's Parrakeets, £5; pair Yellow-backed Lories, £6; pair Black-headed Sibias, £4; true pair All Green Tanagers, £4; Hen Grand Eclectus, 60s. All very fit and in good feather. WANTED Bearded Tit.—H. Willford, Haven Street, I. of W.

YELLOW-WINGED Sugarbird, guaranteed Hen, in my possession one year, perfect plumage, healthy, £2 10s. Also two Cock Purple Sugarbirds, acclimatised, healthy, £2 10s. each.—Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke, Hitcham Vale, Taplow.

FOR SALE: Guiana Lovebird, 15s., Hen Diamond Sparrow 5s., Hen Yellow-rump Finch, 5s., Cock Black-faced Lovebird 15s., all healthy, and acclimatised. WANTED: Two Hen Cuba Finches, Hen Blackhead Gouldian, Hen Yellow Budgerigar.—Miss Peddie Waddell, 4 St. Stuart Street, Edinburgh.

WANTED: A Hen Rock Bush Quail (*P. argoondah*).—Sich, East Hoathly, Sussex.

FOR SALE: A thoroughly acclimatised Cock Painted Finch, price 55s., and a Cock Red-headed Finch, price 12s. 6d. Both in excellent condition and plumage. WANTED: Pair of acclimatised Pintail Nonpareils.—H. Mathias, Stubbington, Hants.

D. DE VON & CO. offers breeding pairs of Budgerigars 5s., odd hens 3s., full grown young birds 3s. 6d. pair, thousands in stock. Husk nests 5d. each, 3s. 6d. dozen, properly wired. Thousands of African and Indian birds to be seen on the premises from 2s. pair, 9s. dozen. Write for price lists. De Von, 114 Bethnal Green Road, London. Telephone 5489 London Wall. Telegraphic Address, "Oiseaux, London."

WANTED: "Bird Notes," Vol. I., First Series, bound or in loose parts.—Apply, J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

WANTED: Copies of "Bird Notes" for January, 1910.—J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

WANTED: Acclimatised Cock Purple-capped Lory.—Edmunds, Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Dorset.

WALSH'S

RELIABLE SEEDS AND FOODS ARE NOTED FOR CLEANLINESS AND - - - GOOD QUALITY. - - -

WALSH'S INSECTIVOROUS FOOD, the most perfect food for all delicate British and Foreign insectivorous Birds. Used by all the principal fanciers, 1s. 6d. lb.; 3 lbs. 4s.; 14 lbs. 17s. 6d.

WALSH'S INSECTIVE FOOD, in two grades. Grade 1, for Larks, etc. Grade 2, for Thrushes, Blackbirds, Starlings, Magpies, Jays, etc. 6d. lb.; 7 lbs. 3s.

MEALWORMS, 650, 1s.; 1,300, 2s.; 5s. lb.; in Boxes containing 634 lbs., 24s. per box.

Live, White GENTLES, invaluable for Softbilled Birds, 1,000 1s.; 3s. lb.

Special Quality Italian WHITE MILLET, 14 lbs. 3s. 3d.; 22s. cwt.

Real INDIAN MILLET, 14 lbs. 3s.; 21s. cwt.

Giant Spanish CANARY SEED, 14 lbs. 3s. 6d.; 23s. cwt.

Special quality SPRAY MILLET, Ripe and Clean. Large Bundles of 50 Sprays, 2s. 3d. Bundle.

For *EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH THE FANCY* see our New 100 page Catalogue, post free, on application.

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BLACKBURN.

Telephone 947.

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HULL.

JUST ARRIVED. A LARGE CONSIGNMENT of AFRICAN WAXBILLS—2,000—consisting of the following:—

Orange Cheek Waxbills, 2s. 6d. pair; Crimson Ears 2s. Silverbills 3s. pair; Combassous 2s. 6d. pair; Zebra Waxbills 3s. 6d. pair; Bronze Wings 3s. pair; Cordon Bleus (in exquisite condition) 3s. 6d. pair; Ribbon Finches 3s. pair; Weavers 1s. each; Paradise Whydas (coming in colour) 5s. pair; Orange Bishop 2s. each; Napoleons 2s. each; also 100 pairs of Zebra Finches 8s. 6d. pair (no reduction for quantities—in lovely condition; Green Singing Finches 6s. pair; a few Lavender Finches 6s. pair; Spice Birds 2s. 6d. pair; Grey Java Sparrows 2s. 6d. pair; Black-headed Mannakins 2s. 6d. pair; White Java Sparrows 10s. pair; Silky Cowbirds 8s. 6d. each; Red-crested Cardinals 7s. 6d. each; Popes 7s. 6d.; Avadavats 2s. 6d. pair.

I should like to particulary mention that my Birds are NOT KEPT IN CAGES but Large Airy Unheated Aviaries.

I believe I AM THE ONLY IMPORTER WHO HAS AN ACCLIMATIZATION DEPARTMENT. All new arrivals being placed therein for 20 days previous to being transferred to the "Sales" Aviary, this being a preventative against any infectious disease so fatal to small Foreign Birds. My Aviaries are scrupulously cleaned 3 times a week. I guarantee every bird to be FREE FROM FEVER, and I will replace any bird dying in 7 days, on condition that they are not placed with any other birds during that period.

I send all my birds in perfectly clean new cages with seed and water for journey for which I make a small charge of 3d. under 20s. order, free over.

I shall have arriving continually through the season, direct

The Bird Market.

Importations of Water Fowl, Rheas, Peacocks, Swans, Australian Birds, Indian, American, also Arctic Birds, Owls, Hawks, Falcons, etc.

Lakes stocked with Waterfowl of all varieties.

Aviaries Built and Stocked. Advice also given on all kinds of Birds as to ailments, feeding, etc.

I have just opened a NEW DEPARTMENT for the Manufacture of all kinds of Wood and Wire Cages, Aviaries, Show Cages, also Animal Cages, Portable Aviaries, etc., combined with my FACTORY for the making of Portable Poultry Houses, Coops, Brooders, Foster Mothers (hot and cold), Incubators and Fittings, etc., Duck Houses, Pigeon Cotes, Appliances, etc. Lofts,—everything for the Live Stock Fancy I make.

Quotations free for the erection of Aviaries.

SEED DEPARTMENT: All the very best seed procurable, guaranteed free from mice, sulphur, or chemicals. All kept in Metal Bins. Send for Lists, free.

DRYKO: The New Dry Food, for Insectiverous Birds.

No. 1 Grade—for Thrush and large birds, 6d. per lb., by post 9d.; 4s. 7 lb.; carriage paid; 7s. 14 lb., carriage paid.

No. 2—for all kinds of small Insectivorous Birds, British, and Foreign. They take to this food immediately, and thrive well on it. 1s. per lb., carriage paid; 6s. per 7 lb., carriage paid; 11s. per 14 lb., carriage paid.

I am open to purchase all kinds of Birds—Parrakeets, Doves, Pheasants, Lovebirds, Budgerigars, single, or odd Birds, or willing to exchange in other Live Stock or Seeds, Foods, Utensils, etc., Cages.

My Motto is "SATISFACTION" TO CUSTOMERS. All transactions are straightforward, and the best attention is given to the small orders as well as the large. Safety and security guaranteed.

B. HOLLINS, B.E.N.A. Proprietor, The Zoo, HULL.

Patronised by Royalty.

Telegrams: ZOO—HULL. *Nat. Tel.* 558x2 Central.

ALSO THE HULL POULTRY AND APPLIANCE WORKS, 9 GEORGE STREET, HULL.

List of Coloured Plates

(By request), which have been published in *Bird Notes.* 1s. each, with the exception of a "Beautiful Aviary," which is 1s. 6d.

Tricolour Tanager
Black-backed ,,
Gold and Green ,,
Superb ,,
Blue and Maroon ,,
Black-cheeked ,,
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit Pigeon
Golden-crowned Conure
Hawk-headed Caique
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugar Bird
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Painted Finch
Sepoy Finch
Blue Budgerigars
The Uvæan Parrakeet
Loo-Choo Robin.
Gouldian Finch
Waxwing
Bronze Cuckoo
Group of Spermophilæ
Mexican or Green Jay
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogon
Leclancher or Rainbow Bunting
Flame-breasted Flower Pecker
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Senegal Parrot
Violet or Dusk Parrot
Uvæan Parrot
Black winged Lory
Stella's Lory
A Beautiful Aviary (1/6)
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

The conditions upon which these will be made by Mr. Hy. Gray, M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, W., are as follows:

(1) The birds must be sent *immediately* after death.

(2) They *must* be packed in a box.

(3). *The letter accompanying them must* NOT *be placed in the box along with the bird.*

(N.B.—Unless the above conditions are complied with the package will be destroyed without examination).

(4) The letter must detail *as far as possible* all particulars as to

(*a*) date of death,
(*b*) length of illness,
(*c*) Symptoms of illness,
(*d*) lodgment and feeding of birds, and
(*e*) especially as to whether egg food or inga seed has been given

(5) The work will be done gratuitously, and a report published in "Bird Notes" *but under no circumstances whatever will a report be sent by post unless a fee of* 2s. 6d. *accompanies the letter and bird.* Pressure of work compels Mr. Gray to make this an invariable rule, and it applies to all members whether they are personally acquainted with him or not.

JUNE, 1911

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

CLUB MEETING: By an oversight the next meeting was arranged for Coronation Day, June 22nd—it must be obvious that this date cannot stand, therefore the meeting is postponed to June 29th: *rendezvous*, Small Bird's House, Zoological Gardens, London, at 11 a.m., and also at 2 p.m., for those unable to be there in the morning. It would be a great convenience if those able to be present would notify the Hon. Editor, as this would allow of some little organization.

CLUB BADGES: We are having a number of neat badges made in solid silver, picked out in blue and white enamel, these can be obtained from the Hon. Editor at 3s. 6d. each. Same design in metal, at 2s. 6d. each, but the latter can only be obtained to order. The Hon. Editor would be glad to hear from intending purchasers, so that as large an order may be placed as possible.

CLUB BREEDING MEDALS: It would appear that three have been won already, as follow:—

Captain Rice—Diuca Finches—first time in Great Brittain.

Captain Rice—Mexican Buntings—first time in Great Brittain.

M. R. Pauvvels—Silver-eared Mesia—first time in captivity.

If any member knows of any previous record of young of the above species having been reared in this country, will they please notify the Hon. Editor at once, otherwise, after an account has appeared in the Club Journal, medals will be awarded in due course.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Sec.*

Post Mortem Reports *Continued from page 188.*

The diarrhœa observed during life was due to the fœcal material setting up irritation of the bowel, and might have been overcome if recognised during life by means of a few doses of castor oil, and tincture of nux vomica; also by massage and some enemata of plain soapy water or glycerine.

The chalk given assisted the constipation.

RE SMALL RED LORY. (L. G. Pike). No doubt the expulsion of liquid from the mouth and a fluid distension of the crop was due to a catarrhal inflammation of the crop, which resembles very much the gastritis so commonly seen in the dog and cat. Syringing out the viscus with 1 in 2,000 solution of perchloride of mercury would have a very beneficial effect if adopted very early in the complaint. The bird should then be fed on Brand's Essence of Beef (jelly), in a small quantity and very often.

RUDDY COWBIRD ♀ (W. Shore Baily, Wiltshire). The left lung was affected with caseous pneumonia, and the right one contained a patch of consolidation. There was a cheesy nodule larger than a big pea encysted in the wall of the abdomen. This bird had been ill some time.

PURPLE-CAPPED LORY ♀ (Lady Webster, Sussex). No doubt the bird died in a fit, probably brought about by the bread and milk. During the hot weather it is advisable to use condensed milk in place of ordinary cow's milk. Make certain the food utensils are thoroughly scalded before such birds are fed.

Letter received unsigned, without address, and not dated. Answered by post. (G. Pelham, Sutton, 2).

Illustration Fund.

The Committee beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations to Illustration Fund:—

Captain G. A. Perreau	1	1	0

Proposed for Election of Members.

Dr. H. Legh de Legh, Redcar, Yorks. *By H. R. Fillmer.*

M. Thomson, 4 William Street, Roslyn, Dunedin, New Zealand. *By H. R. Fillmer.*

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

H. E. Bliss, to c./o. T. Estcourt, Rosemead, Cape Colony, S. Africa.

N.S O'Reilly, to 9, Langhorne Gardens, The Leas, Folkestone.

The Bird Market.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.
Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny. minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES : All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.
Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Letters only.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED: A Grey Parrot, must be acclimatised, and in perfect condition.—young bird preferred. —Apply Hon. Editor *Bird Notes*, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

THE Hon. Editor can recommend an experienced Aviary Attendant.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

IN RESPONSE to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1/6, with larger proportion of animal matter 2/- and 2/6 per lb. W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED: "Bird Notes," Vol. I., First Series, bound or in loose parts.—Apply, J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

WANTED: Copies of "Bird Notes" for January, 1910.—J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

WANTED: One or two acclimatised hen Diamond Doves. Thwaites, 94, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton.

WANTED: Cock Aurita, hens Diamond and Peaceful Doves; cocks Gouldian Finch, Brown-headed and Yellow-winged Starlings, Wm. Shore Bailey, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

MEALWORMS. Having contracted for continual supply of Mealworms in larger quantities than required for use, I can offer the finest quality worms at fixed prices throughout the year. 4 lb. boxes 17s., or 9 lbs. at 3s. 10d. per lb., both lots carriage paid to destination. Prompt delivery guaranteed. Mr. O. Millsum, Everberg, Brabant, Belgium.

LIVE ANTS' EGGS: Mr. P. F. M. Galloway can supply Fresh Live Ant Eggs, at 3s. 4d. per lb., post free, every week regularly From now until September 7th. Finest Live Food for all birds, most useful for birds rearing young. Samples free on application.—Galloway, Durbam, Caversham, Reading.

D. De VON & CO.,

114, Bethnal Green Road, London.

Telephone, 5489. *Telegraphic Address, "Disease," London.*

Hand-reared Magpie, 3s. 6d.; Jays, 5s.; Jackdaws, 2s. 6d.; Cock Nightingales, 6s. 6d.; Cock Russian Sprosser Nightingale, 10s.; Russian Cock Goldfinches, 3s. 6d.; hens, 2s.; Raven, 20s.; big stock of Tanagers and Sugar-birds just arrived. Breeding Budgerigars, 5s. pair; Husks, 5d. each, 3s. 6d. dozen; Rosellas, 28s. pair. Thousands of African Finches, from 2s. pair, 9s. dozen. Address as above.

B. HOLLINS, Proprietor, The Zoo, Hull.

PRICE LIST.

The following Birds now in Stock, Guaranteed in Perfect Condition and quite safe to put in out-door Aviaries. BIRDS DYING IN 3 DAYS REPLACED. Carriage forward, packing 6d. 3 or more pairs. It is advisable if customers will mention other varieties in case those ordered should be sold out to be sent in their place.

500 Avadavats Reds 2/6 pair.
200 Orange-cheek Waxbills 2/6 pair.
200 Crimson-ear Waxbills 2/6 pair.
200 Cordon Bleus (very fine) 3/6 pair.
200 Golden-breasted Waxbills 3/6 pr.
200 Cutthroats 3/- pair.
120 Bronze-wing Mannakins 3/- pair.
100 Paradise Whydahs 3/6 pair.
170 Combassous 3/- pair.
70 Orange Bishops 1/- each.
70 Red-billed Weavers 1/- each.
120 Silverbills 3/- each.
200 Grey Javas 2/6 pair.
60 Green Singing Finches 3/- each.
20 Grey Singing Finches 5/- pair.
20 White Java Sparrows 8/6 and 10/- pair.
10 Lavender Finches 5/- pair.
150 Zebra Finches 8/6 pair, cocks 3/6 hens 5/- each.
200 Green Budgerigars 7/6 and 10/6 pair, cocks 3/6 hens 5/- each.
120 Yellow Budgerigars 8/6 & 10/6 pr.
30 Cockatiels 10/6 pair.
1 Barnard Parrakeet £2/10/0.
1 Very Good Talking Grey Parrot £5.
100 Cock Siberian Bullfinches 7/6 and 10/- each.
70 Hen Siberian Bullfinches 5/-, 6/-, 7/6, 8/6, and 10/- each.
30 Cock Siberian Goldfinches 5/-, 6/-, and 7/6 each.
60 Bramble Finches 1/6 each.
30 Snow Buntings 1/6 each.
500 Singing Cock Linnets from 1/6 to 10/- each.
20 Pairs Pintail Ducks 12/6 pair.
20 Pairs Teal 10/6 pair.
10 Pairs Shoveller Ducks 13/6 pair.
3 Male Pochards 12/6 each.
1 Pair Tufted Ducks 25/- pair.

White-winged Lenadia Doves 20/- pr.
Californian Crested Quail, beautiful condition 22/6 pair.
Blood-breasted Pigeons £3 pair.
Zebra Doves 10/6 pair.
Ring Neck Doves 3/6 pair.
White Doves 3/6 pair.
Leadbeater Cockatoo £5 (winner).
Indian Ring Neck Parrots (Rocks) 20/- each
3 Pairs Triangular Spotted Doves £2 pair.
10 Pair Garganey Teal 10/6 pair.
Large consignments arriving every week.
Yorkshire Terrier Dog, Pedigree, small 8 months old. Lady's Pet £2.
Fox Terrier Pups from 5/- each.
Tortoise from 6d. each.
Goldfish from 1d. to 1/- each.
Aquariums and Plants
2 Cock Amherst Pheasants, little rough in feather, 30s. each.

CANARY DEPARTMENT:
Norwich Cocks 6/6, 7/6, 8/6, 10/6, 12/6.
Norwich Hens 5/-, 6/-, 7/6, 8/6.
Yorkshire Cocks 6/6, 7/6, 8/6, 10/6, 12/6.
Yorkshire Hens 3/-, 4/-, 5/-, 6/-, 7/6, 10/6.
African Grey Parrots 25/-, 30/-, 35/- Privately brought over; in lovely condition.

POULTRY FARM DEPARTMENT:
Cross Bred Chicks for utility purposes 6/- doz.
Sussex Reds 10/- doz.
Rhode Island Reds 12/- doz.
Buff Orpingtons 8/6, 10/6, 12/6 doz.
Extra Fine Buff Leghorns 8/- to 10/6 doz.
Minorcas 7/6, 8/6. 10/6, 12/6 doz.
Wyandottes 8/-, 10/-, 12/- doz.
Plymouth Rocks 7/-, 8/-, 10/- doz.

The Bird Market.

B. HOLLINS'S PRICE LIST—Continued.

Leghorns 7/-, 8/-, 10/- doz.
Indian Game 7/-, 8/-, 10/- doz
Houdans 7/6, 8/6, 10/6 doz.
All warranted Pure Bred Prize Strain. Securely packed.
SPECIALITIES :
Mealworms 5/6 lb.
Millet Sprays 2/3 bundle 50.

Paddy Rice 3/8 stone.
Dryko for Softbills, 6d. lb., 3d. post'ge
,, No. 2, for small foreigners 1s. lb. post free
Amherst Pheasants, £3 pair.
Golden, 35s. pair,
Fancy Pigeons, Doves, Pheasants, Quail, Cranes. List on application.

I should like to particularly mention that my Birds are NOT KEPT IN CAGES but Large Airy Unheated Aviaries.

I believe I AM THE ONLY IMPORTER WHO HAS AN ACCLIMATIZATION DEPARTMENT. All new arrivals being placed therein for 20 days previous to being transferred to the "Sales" Aviary, this being a preventative against any infectious disease so fatal to small Foreign Birds. My Aviaries are scrupulously cleaned 3 times a week. I guarantee every bird to be FREE FROM FEVER, and I will replace any bird dying in 7 days, on condition that they are not placed with any other birds during that period.

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I shall have arriving continually through the season, direct Importations of Water Fowl, Rheas, Peacocks, Swans, Australian Birds, Indian, American, also Arctic Birds, Owls, Hawks, Falcons, etc.

Quotations free for the erection of Aviaries.

I am open to purchase all kinds of Birds—Parrakeets, Doves, Pheasants, Lovebirds, Budgerigars, single, or odd Birds, or willing to exchange in other Live Stock or Seeds, Foods, Utensils, etc., Cages.

B. HOLLINS, B.E.N.A. Proprietor, The Zoo, HULL.

Patronised by Royalty.

Telegrams: ZOO—HULL. *Nat. Tel.* 558x2 Central.

ALSO THE HULL POULTRY AND APPLIANCE WORKS, 9 GEORGE STREET, HULL.

Review of the Bird Market.

Apart from private consignments, there is not a great deal to notice. The usual Freely Imported Species in good variety—Finches, Waxbills, Weavers, and Buntings—and can be obtained from various sources—notably, De Von and Co., B. Hollins, J. Walsh, J. Hamlyn, and others.

A. E. Jamrach, has received a varied consignment consisting of Pennant's, Ring-necked, Blood-rumped, and Passerine Parrakeets. Golden-crowned, Red-bellied, Brown-throated, and Patagonian Conures. Ornamental, and Wallace's Lorikeets. Cuban Thrushes; Cuban Grosbeaks; Blue-fronted, Yellow-splashed, and Red-fronted Amazon Parrots. Cassini Finches; Passerine Doves; Snowy Egrets; Japanese Teal; Cape Colies; Goshawk; Blue-bearded and Peruvian Jays, Troupials, and various Macaws.

De Von and Co, among a host of Freely Imported species are offering Montezuma Quail, Peruvian, and Mexican Green Jays, Cuban Finches, Pekin Robins, Spectacle Thrushes, Colombian and Cuban Doves, various Troupials, Sprossers, etc.—(See advert).

Cross is offering among many others: Martinican Doves, Bleeding-heart, and Spotted Pigeons, Hawk-headed Parrot (Caique), Yellow Pionus Parrot, Ruficauda and Zebra Finches, Dyals, Shamas, various Mynahs, and a Japanese Spectacle Song Thrush, etc.

Mr. H. Willford has privately received, Blue, Green, and Yellow-winged Sugarbirds, Violet-eared Waxbills, Lavender Finches; Blue, All Green, Palm, and other Tanagers, some of which are for sale.

The following rare or uncommon birds have also been advertised in the "Fancy Press" or listed:—

Clarino, or Townsend's Flycatcher, Australian Fire-tail Finches, Virginian Cardinals, Military Troupials.

Just on going to press we hear of the arrival of a large private consignment of over 700 Indian birds, comprising: Rare Flycatchers, Chats, Starts, Drongos, and many others—a detailed account will appear in our next issue.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

CLUB MEETINGS: For our meeting on 29th ult. we were favoured with beautiful weather, and an interesting but small gathering was the result. Present: Hon: Mrs. McLaren Morrison, Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley, Capt. J. Sherard Reeve, Rev. J. Paterson, T. Miller, J. Sheldon, F. Finn, H. Goodchild, and W. T. Page. We are arranging another meeting for Saturday, July 22nd. *Rendezvous*, Small Bird House, London Zoo, at 2-30 p.m., when we hope there will be a large muster. It would be very helpful if members would notify their intention of being present to the Hon. Editor—also their views as to day and time most likely to meet the convenience of the majority—also suggestions for other places of meeting.

CLUB BADGES: These are now in stock (silver ones). In solid silver, picked out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each. In metal, 2s. 6d. each, the latter only to order. We urge *each member* to procure one, as not only will they act as a means of introduction to members at shows and similar functions, but it will also help the club if they are procured and so worn. The badge is very neat and tasteful. Apply the Hon. Editor.

NEW MEMBERS: We would also urge members to keep before them the great need of extending our membership. Either the Hon. Editor or Hon Business Secretary will send specimen copies to any address sent in by members or forward them in any member's name.

COPY FOR MAGAZINE: Articles are still needed for our "Freely Imported Species" section, though in this issue it has yielded to "Avicultural Notes," etc. Contributions will be much appreciated of any species not yet dealt with under this heading. We also request full accounts of breeding results, whether of rare or common (so-called) species.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Sec.*

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

Mrs. McLaren Morrison, Parkfield, Park Lane, Southwick, Sussex.
Miss N. Hadden, 98 Baron's Court Road, Kensington, London, W.
H. C. Oberholser to 1444, Fairmount Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

New Members Elected.

Dr. H. Legh de Legh, Redcar, Yorks
M. Thomson, 4 William Street, Roslyn, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Proposed for Election of Members.

C. William Beebe, Curator of Ornithology; New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A.

F. A. Gillies, Thornly Park House, Thornly Park, Paisley.
By the Hon. Editor.

The Hon. Mrs. Bampfylde, Court Hall, North Molton, N. Devon
By Miss E. F. Chawner.

Ralph A. Holden, F.Z.S., 5, John Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C., and Harpenden, Herts. *By Hayward W. Mathias.*

Thos. F. Turner, 20, Sheffield-road, Tinsley, Sheffield.
By J. Mace.

Mrs. R. E. Wethey, Leholm, Redcar, Yorks.
By H. Legh de Legh, M.D.

The Bird Market.

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BUDGERIGAR RINGS for identifying young from 12 different nests 2s. 1d.; six 1s. 1d.; three 7d. Seven rings each nest, with directions, post free.—J. Ford, 258, Welford Road, Leicester.

FOR SALE: Outdoor Aviary-bred Zebra Finches, 7s. 6d. pair.—C. H. Robinson, The Grange, Glaisdale, Grosmont, R.S.O., Yorks.

FOR SALE: Very fine pair Blue-bonnet Parrakeets, £3 5s. 0d.; Young Golden Pheasants, 5s. each; Young Cockateils, 5s.; Green Budgerigars, 3s.; Yellow Budgerigars 3s. 6d. All from Garden Aviary,—Mrs. Croysdale, Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.

THE Hon. Editor can recommend an experienced Aviary Attendant.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised Hen Scaly-breasted Lorikeet. Perfect. Condition, price 30s.—Mrs. C. H. Williams, Emmanuel Parsonage, Exeter.

D. De VON & CO.,

114, Bethnal Green Road, London.

Have to offer Blue-cheeked Barbets, 30s. each; Black Seed-eaters 10s. each; White-throated Finch, 7s. 6d.; Yellow-breasted Seed-eaters, 15s. each; Cuban Finches, 25s. pair; Cock Virginian Red Cardinal, 20s., Hen 35s.; Indigo Bunting, 18s.; Nonpariel Bunting, 25s.; Coly or Mouse Bird, 30s.; Cuban Olive Finches, 25s. pair; adult breeding Budgerigars, 5s. pair, odd Hens 3s.; Yellow Budgerigars, 8s. pair; Husks 5d. each, unwired, 2d.

Thousands of birds in Stock. See Price Lists.

Telephone: 5489, *Wall. Telegraphic Address, Oiseaux, London.*

Live Ants' Eggs, Wasp Grubs, Gentles, Mealworms, etc.

Wasp Grubs alive or cured 2s. lb., 3lbs. 5s. 6d.; Handpicked Live Ants' Eggs, 3s. lb., 3 lbs. 7s. 6d.; Live White Gentles, 1,000 7d., 3s. lb.; Large Mealworms, 650 1s., 1,300 2s., 5s. lb.; Ants' Eggs 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. lb.; Dried Flies, 2s. 6d. lb.; Silkworm Pupæ 1s. 6d. lb.; Flaked Yolk of Egg, 4s. lb.; Carrot Meal, 9d. lb.; Crissel 4d. lb.; Pea Meal, Bean Meal, and Oatmeal 2d. lb.; best Insectivorous Food 1s. 6d. lb.; Egg Bread 1s. 6d. lb.; Lark and Thrush Food, 6d. lb.; Cuttlefish 1s. lb.

Samples and Catalogues Free on application.

J. Walsh, N.B.B. and M.C. and P.B.C.,

BIRDFOOD SPECIALIST, BLACKBURN. *Telephone,* 947.

B. HOLLINS, Proprietor, The Zoo, Hull.

RECENT ARRIVALS:

20 PAIRS NONPAREIL BUNTINGS. 5 VIRGINIAN CARDINALS.
10 PAIRS INDIGO BUNTINGS. 10 BLACK TANAGERS.
10 PAIRS CUBAN FINCHES. 100 ZEBRA FINCHES.
10 PAIRS OLIVE FINCHES. 100 BENGALESE.
2000 SMALL FOREIGNERS.

Prices and Lists on application.

I should like to particularly mention that my Birds are NOT KEPT IN CAGES but Large Airy Unheated Aviaries.

Patronised by Royalty.

Telegrams: ZOO—HULL. *Nat. Tel.* 558x2 Central.

WANTED: "Bird Notes," Vol. I., First Series, bound or in loose parts. Apply, J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

WANTED: Copies of "Bird Notes" for January, 1910.- J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

WANTED: Harlequin Dove, cock: following hens Bib Finch, Diamond Dove, Pekin Robin, Zebra Finch, Rose Pastor, Malbar Mynah, Chinese Bunting. Pair Wonga-Wonga Pigeons. Dr. Philip Gosse, Beaulieu, Hants.

WANTED: Cock Black-throated Tanager, must be healthy. Hon. Mrs G. Bourke, Hitcham Vale, Taplow.

Review of the Bird Market.

One large consignment (private), is noted elsewhere, this leaves us with purely trade notes to deal with here.

SUNBIRDS, ETC: Just on going to press I received an invitation from Mr. Hamlyn, the well known dealer, to go over and see some Indian birds, just arrived, consisting of Sunbirds, Coppersmith Barbets, Shamas, Kingfishers, Tree-pies, etc. Unfortunately these notes must leave me before I can see the birds. Mr. Hamlyn is also offering Racquet-tailed (Queen) Whydahs; Ruficauda, Cuban, B. H. Gouldian, Olive, and Red-headed Finches; Malaccan Green-winged Fruit Doves, Pied Hornbill, several species of Quail, besides the usual Freely Imported Species.

NONPAREIL BUNTINGS, ETC: Mr. B. Hollins notifies the arrival of Nonpareil and Indigo Buntings, Virginian Cardinals, Cuban, Olive, and Zebra Finches, and 2000 Small Foreigners.

RAINBOW BUNTINGS: Mr. Robert Green has received *via* the Continent four Buntings, which he was unable to identify. Unfortunately I arrived too late to see them (by one hour), they had been sold, but from the description given me from several sources, I have not the least doubt but what they were of this fascinating species.

SUGARBIRDS, ETC: Among a large and varied assortment of "Freely Imported Species" Messrs. De Von and Co. are offering Blue and Olive Tanagers, Green Sugarbirds, Red-rumped Cassique, various Troupials, Indigo Buntings, and Virginian Cardinals (see advert.)

PARRAKEETS, THRUSHES, ETC: Mr. A. E. Jamrach is offering quite a series of common and uncommon species: Brown's Red-winged, Pennant's, Rosella, All Green, Lineolated, and Tovi Parrakeets; Patagonian Conure, Red-collared Lorikeets, Cape Colies (Mouse birds), Scimitar Babblers, Him. Rock Thrush, Mexican Blue Mocking-birds, Red-backed Buntings, Glossy Ibisses, Snowy Egrets, Aust. Piping Crow, various Ducks, Quail, etc. W.T.P.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Hon. Editor, or some other officer, will be pleased to make the acquaintance of members visiting London and will arrange to meet them at the London Zoo or elsewhere, according to mutual convenience if due notice be given.

British Birds: This section of our Journal has rather languished during the past few months—many of our members keep indigenous species, some specialise with them. Copy is urgently requested, as we strongly desire this feature to be represented monthly.

Illustration Fund: This is kept open for the provision of extra illustrations, that the committee may be able to reproduce the many interesting photos sent in from time to time. Donations are much needed for this purpose at the present time.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Important.

Proposed extra classes for the next L.C.B.A. Show (Horticultural Hall).

A class for Lories and Lorikeets, and one for the following named Tanagers: Superb, Tricolour, Violet, Scarlet, Black, Blue, and Palm.

These two classes will stand if I can give the L.C.B.A. an assurance that they will be supported. Will intending exhibitors kindly communicate with me before the 25th of this month, as I have to send in word to the L.C.B.A. by then.

The L.C.B.A. have always been to the fore in giving a generous classification, so I hope exhibitors will show their appreciation by making a good entry, but of course these extra classes will not be given without promise of some support, so the matter rests with the exhibitors themselves.

S. M. TOWNSEND.

3 Swift Street, Fulham, S.W.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donation to the Illustration Fund:

Captain S. S. Flower	£0 3 0

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

H. C. Oberholser, to 1444 Fairmont Street, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

H. S. Joyce to 9 Werndee Road, South Norwood, S.E.

H. E. Bliss, to c/o S. Escourt, Rosmead, Cape Colony.

New Members Elected.

C. William Beebe, Curator of Ornithology; New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A.

F. A. Gillies, Thornly Park House, Thornly Park, Paisley.

The Hon. Mrs. Bampfylde, Court Hall, North Molton, N. Devon

Ralph A. Holden, F.Z.S., 5, John Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C., and Harpenden, Herts.

Thos. F. Turner, 20, Sheffield-road, Tinsley, Sheffield.

Mrs. R. E. Wethey, Leholm, Redcar, Yorks.

Proposed for Election of Members.

S. Clarke, Inees, Scaynes Hill, Haywards Heath.
By Miss A. Bruce.

Miss Sybil Munday, Shipley Hall, Derby.
By Mrs. E. D. Lee.

Lady Poltimore, Poltimore Park, Exeter
By H. Willford.

The Bird Market.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month
Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES : All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.
Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock, Also special mixture for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1s. 6d., with larger proportion of animal matter 2s. and 2s. 6d. per lb. Letters only.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

THE Hon. Editor can recommend an experienced Aviary Attendant.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

WANTED: "Bird Notes," Vol. I., First Series, bound or in loose parts.—Apply, J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

WANTED: Copies of "Bird Notes" for January, 1910.—J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

FOR SALE: True Pair of St. Thomas's Conures, twice moulted in garden, 42s.; Cock Crimson Crowned Weavers, 7s. 6d. each; Orange Bishops, 5s.; two years in my aviary.—S. Williams, F.Z.S., Holland Lodge, Edmonton.

YELLOW BUDGERIGARS: Mr. Mathias has early bred Birds to dispose of. Price 5s. 6d. a Pair, or Cocks 2s. 9d.; Hens 3s. 9d.—Apply, Stubbington, Hants.

CARNATIONS: Mr. Hayward Mathias offers thoroughly healthy Plants from his large collection of Borders, American Trees, and Malmaisons. Catalogue free.—Apply, Medstead, Hants.

PAIR White-throated Grosbeaks, 15s.; Yellow-throated Sparrows, 10s.; Hen bearded Tit, 7s.; Saffron Finch, 7s.; Common Cardinal, 7s.; Snow Bunting, 5s. All cocks, out-doors. Wanted: Hens—Malabar Mynah, Rosey Pastor, Diamond Dove.—Philip Gosse, Beaulieu, Hants.

Live Ants' Eggs, Wasp Grubs, Gentles, Mealworms, etc.

Large clean Wasp Grubs, alive or cured, 7½d., 1s. 3d., 2s. 6d., and 5s. 6d. per box; Live White Gentles, 1,000 7d., 2,000 1s., 3s. lb.; large English Mealworms, 650 1s., 1,300 2s., 5s. lb. boxes containing 6¼ lb. 24s.; Ants' Eggs 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. lb.; Dried Flies 2s. 6d. lb.; Silkworm Pupæ 1s. 6d. lb.; Flaked Yolk of Egg 4s. lb.; Best Insectivorous Food 1s. 6d. lb.; Walsh's Celebrated Egg Bread 1s. 6d. lb.; Lark or Thrush Food 6d. lb.; Carrot Meal 9d. lb.; Crissel 4d. lb.; Biscuit Meal 3d. lb.; Pea Meal, Bean Meal, Rice Meal, and Oat Meal, all 2d. lb. Cuttlefish Bone 1s. lb.

Samples and 100-page Book Catalogue free on application.

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A Long-felt Want.

Requires No Water. Always ready, no mixing. Will not turn sour. Birds never have dirty feet. Made in 2 Grades.

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6d. per lb.	by post 9d.
4s. per 7lbs.	Carriage Paid
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No. 2.—For Small Insectiverous Birds, Wrens, Nightingales, Robins, Creepers, Warblers, Shamas, Bulbuls, Tanagers, Wagtails, and all Small Foreign Soft-billed Birds thrive wonderfully on "DRYKO."

Specially recommended for newly-caught or imported birds.

Keeps them in splendid health; improves their feathers.

1s. per lb.	Carriage paid.
6s. per 7lbs.	Carriage Paid
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Bird Food Specialist,
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Samples Free for Stamp.

D. De VON & CO.,

114, Bethnal Green Road, London.

Telephone: 5489, *Wall. Telegraphic Address, Oiseaux, London.*

Offers Blue Cheek Barbets, 30s. each; White Java Sparrows; Yellow and Green Budgerigars, Shamahs, Parrots, and Thousands of bright coloured Finches.

See price list free on application.

Annual Clearance Sale

Of Foreign Birds, Doves, Waterfowl, etc., previous to my arrivals — of Hartz Mountain Canaries. —

Send for LISTS to

B. HOLLINS, Proprietor, The Zoo, Hull.

Review of the Bird Market.

There is but little calling for special comment, but many interesting species are on offer, and the "Freely Imported Species" form part of the stock of all the well known dealers, among whom we may mention B. Hollins, Miss Rosey, J. Walsh, C. A. Luer, R. Green, J. Mace, De Von and Co., Mrs. Thorpe, H. Lewis, G. Fletcher, and others.

B. Hollins is offering among many others Red-crested and Virginian Cardinals, Yellow-winged Troupials, White Java Sparrows, Bib, Jacarini, Olive, and Cuba Finches, and Jameson's Waxbills.

All the following are obtainable from A. E. Jamrach: Clarnio, Scimitar, Yellow-billed, Red-throated, and Grey-winged Thrushes; Yellow-sided and Blue Sugar-birds, Blue-banded Jays, Levaillant's Barbet, Black-sided and Common Hangnests, Blue-bearded Jays, Spot-billed Toucanets, Red-backed Buntings, Long-tailed Glossy Starlings, Cape Colies, Chinese Painted Quails, Chukar Partridges, Red-collared Lorikeets, Rosella, Tirika, Blossom-headed, and Red-winged Parrakeets, White-eared, Jendaya, Brown-throated and Patagonian Conures, Amazons, in variety; Glossy Ibises, Rheas, Storks, Crowned Cranes, Teal, Macaws, etc..

J. Walsh is offering Shamahs, Silky Cowbirds, Talking Cockatoos, and Amazon Parrots, etc.

De Von and Co., in addition to "Freely Imported Species," offer Blue-cheeked Barbets, Sugar-birds, Redstarts, Colies, Troupials, Masked Doves, Red-rumped Casique, Shamas, etc.

I would point out that Australian Finches, etc., will probably soon be very scarce, and the present is a good time to renew stocks while obtainable.

The present is also a good time to extend our collections of Weavers, Whydahs, etc., as most species are now in breeding plumage and readily recognised. Among others the following are all obtainable from the various dealers mentioned at head of review: Masked, Napoleon, Red-billed, Grenadier, Yellow-masked, Half-masked, Orange, and Madagascar Weavers, Paradise, Giant, Racquet-tailed and Pin-tailed Whydahs. W.T.P.

List of Coloured Plates

(By request), which have been published in *Bird Notes.* 1s. each, with the exception of a "Beautiful Aviary," which is 1s. 6d.

Tricolour Tanager
Black-backed ,,
Gold and Green ,,
Superb ,,
Blue and Maroon ,,
Black-cheeked ,,
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit Pigeon
Golden-crowned Conure
Hawk-headed Caique
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugar Bird
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Painted Finch
Sepoy Finch
Blue Budgerigars
The Uvæan Parrakeet
Loo-Choo Robin.

Gouldian Finch
Waxwing
Bronze Cuckoo
Group of Spermophilæ
Mexican or Green Jay
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogon
Leclancher or Rainbow Bunting
Flame-breasted Flower Pecker
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Senegal Parrot
Violet or Dusk Parrot
Uvæan Parrot
Black-winged Lory
Stella's Lory
A Beautiful Aviary (1/6)
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

CLUB BADGES: It will greatly further the social side of the club, if now the exhibition season is practically commencing each member would procure a badge and wear it at the various shows; it would be a means of introduction to each other, and undoubtedly lead to the making of many interesting acquaintances.

CLUB MEETINGS: The last meeting at the Zoo for this season will be held on Wednesday, October 18th, and will be an all day gathering. *Rendezvous*: Small Birds' House, at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. for those who cannot be present in the morning. It is hoped that as many members as possible will make an effort to be present, and also to notify the Hon. Editor, that adequate arrangements may be made. Members are requested to note the date as the meeting is almost simultaneous with the publication of October issue, and a reminder may not be possible.

BREEDING MEDALS: A full list will be published in next issue (October) and the medals distributed before the close of the year.

PARROTS, PARRAKEETS, AND LORIES: Members who keep these groups, are requested to send in notes and descriptions of their aviaries and birds.

MICE AND AVIAN PESTS: It would be of general practical interest if members would give their experiences in dealing with aviary vermin (mice, rats, etc.), and measure of success achieved. We press this matter upon members' attention. Can any member suggest a chemical, or some fluid, which can be squirted down their runs, which will render them uninhabitable to these pests *and yet not poison the ground for plants and herbage* ?

Hon. Editor: WESLEY T. PAGE.

Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.: HENRY WILLFORD.

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

" M. Aronstein " on roll, should read M. Armstein.

New Members Elected.

S. Clarke, Inces, Scaynes Hill, Haywards Heath.
Lady Poltimore, Poltimore Park, Exeter
Miss Sybil Munday, Shipley Hall, Derby.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donation to the Illustration Fund:

Lieut. G. Kennedy	£1 10 0

Proposed for Election of Members.

C. Roehl, 400, Edgware Road, London, W.
By H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S.

Edgar Stead, Strowan, Christchurch, New Zealand.
By W. R. Temple.

E. A. Mallett, M.A., Rose Villa, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley, Yorks.
Miss Dorothy Pithie, Bellevue, Lymmington, Hants.
By Dr. Philip Gosse.

Sydney Wintmore, 4, Pemberton House, Doughty Street, London, W.C.
By S. M. Townsend.

Mrs. G. F. Hall, Denholme, Hayling Island, and 2, Park Place Villas, Paddington, London, W. *By The Hon. Editor.*

Review of the Bird Market.

Unavoidably crowded out this issue.

The Bird Market.

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FOR SALE: Guaranteed Aviary-bred Hoopoes, in perfect feather; bred by me this season—2 Cocks, 1 Hen, 30s. each; or £4 the three.—M. Armstein, 30, Grand Parade, Cork.

MONSIEUR PAUVVELS can spare adult pair Sky Blue Budgerigars, highest cash offer or exchange for other rarities.—Address: Everberg, Brabant, Belgium.

WANTED: Acclimatised Cocks—Black-headed Gouldian Finch, and Blue-wing Lovebird. Also a hen Pelzeln's Saffron Finch.—Capt. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

FOR SALE: African Harlequin Quails, Aviary Bird, 40s. pair. Also Three Parrot Finches, £7. Among them is a certain breeding pair.—W. R. Temple, Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks.

FOR SALE: Large Hill Mynah, acclimatised, healthy, good mimic, and starting to talk. £3 10s., or near offer.—Lady Malden, Soulbury, Leighton Buzzard.

CARNATIONS: Mr. Hayward Mathias offers thoroughly healthy Plants from his large collection of Borders, American Trees, and Malmaisons. Catalogue free.—Apply, Medstead, Hants.

THE Hon. Editor can recommend an experienced Aviary Attendant.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

FOR SALE: Cock and Hen Zebra Finches, same brood, left nest July 10, 3s. each.—H. L. Sich, East Hoathly, Sussex.

ROSELLA, Cock, 21s.; Mealy Rosella, hen, 30s.; Pair Ringnecks and youngster, 21s.; Pairs Quakers, 5s.; Javas, 4s.; Silver Pheasants, 15s. All wintered out and in fine condition. Approval willingly to club members.—Douglas Kirk, Llanishen, Cardiff.

WANTED: Hens, Yellow-winged Sugar Bird, Spotted Pigeon, Diamond Dove, Senegal cock (exchange hen). FOR SALE: Doves: Aurita, 5s. 6d.; Madagascar (cock) 10s.; 2 Barbarys, 1s. 6d. —Miss Aldersen, Park House, Worksop.

MR. MATHIAS, Stubbington, Hants, has 1911-bred birds of the following species for disposal—all from outdoor aviaries: 1 Olive Finch (hen) 25s.; 3 Cordon Bleus, 5s. each; 1 pair Rufous-tail Grassfinches, 25s.; Yellow Budgerigars, 5s. 6d. pair; or hens, 3s. 9d., and cocks 2s. 9d. each.

FOR SALE: Pairs Grey Grosbeaks (*Spermophila grisea*) and Yellow-throated Sparrows. WANTED: Hen Diamond Dove.—Philip Gosse, Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Hants.

FOR SALE: Pair handsome Californian Quail. Bred here this summer, 15s.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: 6 aviary-bred (1911) Cockateels, 6s. each; also 4 pairs of hybrid Turtle x Barbary Doves, make excellent foster-parents, 5s. pair, or will exchange.—B. Hamilton Scott, Hamildean, Ipswich.

FOR SALE: Black-capped S. American Siskin 18s. WANTED: Acclimatised pair of Scarlet Tanagers.—Miss Lydia Clare, 194, Coombe Lane Raynes Park, London, S.W.

WANTED: Cock Bengales, white or nearly so; must be a strong healthy bird.—Miss Peddie Waddell, Balquhatstone, Slamannan, Stirlingshire.

D. De VON & CO.,

114, Bethnal Green Road, London.

Telephone: 5489, *Wall. Telegraphic Address, Oiseaux, London.*

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No. 1.—For Thrushes, Larks, Blackbirds, etc., and Larger Foreign Softbills—

6d.	per lb.	by post 9d.
4s.	per 7lbs.	Carriage Paid
7s.	per 14lbs.	Carriage Paid

No. 2.—For Small Insectiverous Birds, Wrens, Nightingales, Robins, Creepers, Warblers, Shamas, Bulbuls, Tanagers, Wagtails, and all SMALL FOREIGN SOFT-BILLED BIRDS thrive wonderfully on "DRYKO."

Specially recommended for newly-caught or imported birds.

Keeps them in splendid health; improves their feathers.

1s.	per lb.	Carriage paid.
6s.	per 7lbs.	Carriage Paid
11s.	per 14lbs.	Carriage Paid

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Bird Food Specialist,
9, George-street, Hull.

SAMPLES FREE FOR STAMP.

NEW DEPARTURE.

The "Hull" Poultry Appliance Works.

Head Office: 9 George Street, Hull.
Nat. Tel. 558x2. Works: New Garden Street.

Manufacturer of

Portable Poultry Houses.
High-class Incubators.
Agent for Phipps, Hearson.
Foster Mothers.
Brooders.
Stubble Houses.
Pigeon Pens, Lofts, etc.
Chicken Runs.
Duck Houses.
Poultry Hurdles, Baskets, etc.
Thermometers, Capsules, etc.
Repairs of all descriptions.
Poultry Yards fully equipped.
Dog Kennels, all descriptions.
Aviaries, Indoor and Outdoor.
Portable Buildings.
Portable Bird Houses for Outdoors.
Motor Houses.
Bicycle Houses.
Rabbit Hutches.
Workshops.
Travelling Boxes for Eggs or Chickens.
Specialities in Poultry Appliances.
Wire Netting.
Roofing Felts, etc.
Everything for the Fancy.
Poultry Houses built to Customers' designs.

B. HOLLINS, Proprietor, The Zoo,
GEORGE STREET, HULL,

The Coming Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following shows: Other shows receiving same will be announced later.

The Show Committee wish to point out to members that by helping the shows advertised in the Magazine they are helping the Club, as all advertisements are paid for.

Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry, as it is impossible for a secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the judge otherwise.

Clapham: October 11th and 12th. Classification for Foreign Birds. One bronze medal. Judge: Mr. J. Frostick. Schedules from Mr. A. L. Priest, 28 Kyrle Road, Clapham Common, S.W.

Norwich: Oct. 12th and 13th. Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One bronze medal. Judge: Mr. J. Robson. Schedules from Mr. R. Roll, 58 York Street, Norwich.

Newcastle: October 20th and 21st. Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One bronze medal. Judge: Mr. C. Houlton. Schedules from Mr. J. E. Atkinson, 8 Trewhitt Road, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

As errors often creep into schedules, the medal and cup rules are printed this month, under which awards are made.

Regulations as to Club Medals and Cup.

Made by the Show Committee of the Council.

1. All Medals shall be given for Best Bird.

2.—Members exhibiting at Shows where Club Medals are given, *must* place the initials "F.B.C." after each entry on the entry form, and request the Secretary to insert the same in the Show Catalogue.

3.—No member shall win more than two Medals in one season one silver and one bronze or more than one Medal at the same Show.

4.—No Medal shall be given at any Show, unless the Clasification and the name of the Judge be first submitted to and approved by the Committee. Preference shall be given to Shows at which the Club's Classification is adopted and one of the Club's Judges appointed.

5.—No Medal shall be given at any Show, where less than three Classes for Foreign Birds are provided, and no Silver Medal where less than six Classes. The Show Committee reserve the right of waiving this number at their discretion.

6.—Medals given at OPEN SHOWS only. Birds in Members' Classes shall not compete.

7.—The London Silver Cup will be offered for competition at any Show, held in the London Postal District having our patronage where ten or more classes are given.

(*a*) The Provincial Silver Cup will be offered for Competition at any Provincial Show having our patronage where six or more classes are given.

8.—The Cups are to be won three times (not necessarily in succession), before becoming the property of the winner, and to be given for the most points gained by a member throughout the season at Shows where the Cups are offered for competition.

9.—Members competing for the Cup must nominate not more than three birds, by writing the word "Cup" after each competing bird. If members nominate more than three birds, they will be disqualified for that Show, and only birds in the money will count for points.

10.—No Medal or Cup shall be awarded at any Show unless at least three members compete, and points for the Cup will not be counted, if more than one class is cancelled.

11.—Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 6 points. 2nd 5 points, and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place the member taking the most prize money to win the special.

12.—Any point arising that is not provided for in the above, will be dealt with by the Show Committee.

3 Swift Street, S. M. TOWNSEND,
Fulham, S.W. *Honorary Exhibitional Sec.*

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Club Medals: The following have all qualified for the medal for breeding a species for the first time in this country or in captivity.

Hoopoe—M. Armstein.
Black-throated Bunting—W. E. Teschemaker.
Black-headed Siskin—W. E. Teschemaker.
Mealy Redpoll—W. E. Teschemaker.
Blue Tanager—D. J. E. Scott.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak—H. D. Astley.
Guira Cuckoo—Lady Poltimore.
Mexican Buntings—Capt. Rice.
Indian White-eye—W. T. Page.
Silver-eared Mesia—M. Pauvvels.
Orange-headed Ground Thrush—H. D. Astley.
American Robwhite—H. D. Astley.
Budgerigar and Black-cheeked Lovebird Hybrid—J. Higginbotham.

The above medals will be dispatched as soon as the copy is in, giving a detailed record of the respective successes.

Club Meetings at the Zoo: The last meeting for this season will take place on Wednesday, October 18th, and will be an all day gathering. *Rendezvous*: Small Birds' House, at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. for those who cannot be present in the morning (*see full notice in September issue*).

The Election of Council, Etc.: At a Council Meeting held on the 12th inst., it was unanimously agreed : *That the Hon. Veterinary Surgeon be an ex-officio member of the Council.*

That three members of the Council retire annually by seniority, but are eligible for re-election.

Any members willing to serve on the Council are requested to send in their names to the Hon. Editor, at once, as voting papers must be issued with the November issue of the club journal.

Hon. Editor: WESLEY T. PAGE.
Hon. Business Sec. and Treas.: HARRY WILLFORD.

New Members Elected.

C. Roehl, 400, Edgware Road, London, W.
Edgar Stead, Strowan, Christchurch, New Zealand.
E. A. Mallett, M.A., Rose Villa, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley, Yorks.
Miss Dorothy Pithie, Bellevue, Lymmington, Hants.
Sydney Whitmore, 4, Pemberton House, Doughty Street, London, W.C.
Miss A. F. Hall, Denbholme, Hayling Island, and 2 Park Place Villas, Paddington, London, W.

Proposed for Election of Members.

Lacy Rumsey, 23 Rua de Serpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. *By H. Willford.*
Chas. E. Croker, Burrow Inche, Lower Bourne, Farnham. *By Chas. Harris.*
E. R. Faux, Colmer, Cator Road, Sydenham, S.E. *By the Hon. Editor.*
Herbert Bright, Panton Road, Hoole, Chester, *By P. H. Sellars.*
Arthur E. Young, 15 Osborne Avenue, Newcastle-on-Tyne. *By H. Willford.*

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

Miss Nelly Hadden, Hotel des Bains, Helivan, Egypt.
Miss E. Jardine, St. Michael's Home, Kimberley, South Africa.
Mrs. W. H. Read, 215 Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

Obituary.

C. H. Robinson, The Grange, Glaisdale, Yorks, on October 4th.
Sir C. Lawes-Wittenrouge, Bart., Chelsea Gardens, London, S.W., on October 5th.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donation to the Illustration Fund:

Bampfield, Hon. Mrs. C.	0	10	6
Fisher, W. H.	0	2	6

The Coming Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following shows, in addition to those already announced. The L.C.B.A. Committee have decided to give extra classes to the

Foreign Bird Section, namely, one for Lories, and Lorikeets, one for named Tanagers, one for named insectivorous birds, and one for Pairs, for hybrid breeding. The Show Committee hope that members will respond to this splendid classification, by giving their generous support. Any special prizes presented will be gratefully received. Members with surplus birds might help in this way, a pair of Budgerigars, for instance, would be a good special for the well known Waxbill class. The donors of specials can, of course, present them for any purpose they wish, but it would be better to leave it to the Show Committee in order that they may be distributed equally.

For this show, to encourage support, the L.C.B.A. is giving two extra bronze medals, one for most entries in the Lories Class and another for most entries in the named Tanager class.

Members are reminded that they must write the word " Cup," on the entry form, after the name of each of the three birds they wish to nominate for competition, and that they must put F.B.C. after each of their entries.

MANCHESTER—Belle Vue Gardens, October 27th, and 28th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One silver medal medal and provincial cup for competition. Judge, Mr. C. Houlton. Schedules from Mr. H. Boothman, 8 Kettering Road, Levenshulme, Manchester.

CHELTENHAM—November 1st and 2nd. Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. Frostick. Schedules from Messrs. Treasure and Pounsett, Idahoe, Oakland Avenue, Cheltenham.

SHEFFIELD—Cutlers' Hall, November 3rd and 4th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge, Mr. C. Houlton. Schedules from Mr. T. Bishop, 69 Alexander Road, Heely, Sheffield.

NOTTINGHAM—November 11th, and 13th. Classification for six classes, for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition, Judge Mr. J. F. Dewar. Schedules from Mr. G. E. Wilkinson, 86 Lenton, Boulevard, Nottingham

LUTON—November 9th. Classification for five classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. R. J. Howe. Schedules from Mr. E. Bloomfield, 22 Hitchin Road, Luton.

L.C.B.A.—Royal Horticultural Hall, November 24th, to 27th. Classification for fifteen classes for Foreign Birds, and one selling class. Three silver and two bronze medals, and London Cup for competition. Judge, Mr. H. D. Astley. Schedules from Mr. W. H. Mugford, 1 Strathearn Road, Wimbledon, S.W.

S. M. TOWNSEND,

Hon. Exhibitional Secretary.

3 Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

The Bird Market.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month
Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny. minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock, Also special mixture for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1s. 6d., with larger proportion of animal matter 2s. and 2s. 6d. per lb. Letters only.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

MR. MATHIAS, Stubbington, Hants, offers the following Birds for disposal: A really good pair of Stanley Parrakeets—Price £7. A Blue Bonnet Parakeet (sex unknown)—price £2 15s., or the 3 Birds for £9. Also the following bred this year: A pair Ruficaudas, 25s.; a Pair of Cuban Finches, £1 17s.; one Pileated Finch, 12s. 6d. Yellow Budgerigars, 6s. a pair; or Hens 4s., cocks 2s. 6d. Mr. Mathias also offers Border, Tree, and Malmaison Carnations from his large collection. Catalogues free.

FOR SALE: The original water-colour studies of a few *Bird Notes* plates. Prices £2 2s. and £3 3s. Particulars on application to H. Goodchild, 66 Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, London.

WANTED: Hen Crested Dove, exchange cock, also hen Pennant, cock Mealy Rosella.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Californian Quail Cock, and two Hens, bred here this summer; 25s., approval.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury.

WANTED: "Bird Notes," Vol. I., First Series, bound or in loose parts.—Apply, J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

FOR SALE: Pair Blue-bonnet Parrakeets, pair Cockatiels, about 6 pairs 1911 Green Budgerigars, also the winning team, Black-throated Thrush, Blue-headed Peruvian Jay and Viga Jay, together with stock, and show cages. All out-door aviary, no time for exhibiting. Approval to members willingly, or would Exchange for rare pheasants.—"Lyndhurst," Blackpool-road, Ansdell, Lytham.

B. HOLLINS

The Zoo,

HULL.

MEMBER F.B.C.

I shall be glad if the members of the Foreign Bird Club will send me lists of any kind of our stock they have for disposal, as I am continually receiving a great number of enquiries for stock, also I shall be pleased to receive a list of requirements. Exchanges entertained. Live Stock sold on Commission, or taken in part exchange.

Live Stock (Animals, Birds, Parrots, Waterfowl), may be sent direct to the Zoo if for sale on commission by giving 3 days' notice previous to dispatch.

Every Care is given to all stock received, and members can have every assurance that the best attention will be paid to all Live Stock sent for sale.

PROMPT PAYMENTS GUARANTEED.

THE HIGHEST REFERENCES.

Fully Qualified Veterinary Surgeon employed on the Staff.

PATRONIZED BY ROYALTY.

INSECTIVOROUS · FOOD

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NO EQUALS.

It has been used for over 20 years by most of the leading fanciers, and is still pronounced to be the ideal food for Nightingales, Blackcaps, Wagtails, Creepers, Warblers, Wrens, Tanagers, Shamas, Bulbuls, and all delicate British and Foreign Insectivorous Birds. Price 1s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s., 14 lbs. 17s. 6d.

LARGE MEALWORMS, 650 1s., 300 2s., 5s. lb. Boxes containing 6 lbs. 24s.

LIVE WHITE LIVER GENTLES, 1,000 7d., 2s. 6d. lb. Boxes containing 3 lbs. 4s.

ANTS' EGGS, 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. lb.

DRIED FLIES, 2s. 6d. lb.

FLAKED YOLK OF EGG, 4s. lb.

EGG BREAD, 1s. 6d. lb.

SILKWORM PUPAE, 1s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s.

CARROT MEAL, 9d. lb.,

CRISSEL, 4d. lb.

Samples and Catalogues Free.

WALSH, Bird Food Specialist,
Blackburn.

Telephone 947.

Review of the Bird Market.

These notes are compiled (as time and space permits)—by request—for the information of members, from the usual sources, viz., lists, circulars, and Fancy Press.

A good variety of the "Freely Imported Species," Indian, African, South American, etc., Finches, Buntings, Waxbills, Mannikins, Cardinals, and Parrakeets, etc., form part of the stock of, and may be obtained from De Von and Co., B. Hollins, Miss Rosey, J. Walsh, R. Green, J. Ford, C. Roehl, J. Mace, H. Lewis, G. Fletcher, F. C. Thorpe, A. E. Jamrach, R. Cotton, and many others, but readers should support members and advertisers as far as possible.

Grassfinches: A few of this charming group have been offered during the month, viz.: Pectoral, Ruficauda, Long-tailed, Diamond, Parson, Gouldian, and Parrot Finch, few of which, if any, remains for sale.

Among others the following have been, or are still on offer: African Parson (Bib) Finches; Cuba and Olive Finches, Indigo, Nonpariel, and Chilian Nonpareil Buntings, Shamahs, Virginian, Crested, and other Cardinals; Crested Mynahs, Tree-and-Blue-Pies, Toucans and Toucanettes, Silver-eared Mesias, Rosy Pastors, various Troupials, etc., Purple, and Amethyst-rumped Sunbirds, Violet, Blue, Palm, Scarlet, Maroon, and other Tanagers, Yellow-winged and Green Sugarbirds.

Parrakeets: A good variety of these have been or are still on offer, such as Pennants, Rosella, Blossom-headed, Moustache, Ring-necked, Stanley, Quaker, Tovi, and Blue-bonnets. Green and Brown-faced Conures, Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, and a good assortment of Parrots, Cockatoos, and Macaws.

FROM PRIVATE SOURCES the following have been on offer: Scissor-tailed Tyrant Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeaks, Rufous-throated Blue Sugarbirds, rare Indian Flycatchers, Redstarts, Tits, Chats, Thrushes, Finches, and Buntings, many of which have been already noted in our pages.

Space will not permit a more detailed review this issue.

W.T.P.

List of Coloured Plates

(By request), which have been published in *Bird Notes.* 1s. each, with the exception of a "Beautiful Aviary," which is 1s. 6d.

Tricolour Tanager
Black-backed ,,
Gold and Green ,,
Superb ,,
Blue and Maroon ,,
Black-cheeked ,,
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit Pigeon
Golden-crowned Conure
Hawk-headed Caique
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugar Bird
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Painted Finch
Sepoy Finch
Blue Budgerigars
The Uvæan Parrakeet
Loo-Choo Robin.

Gouldian Finch
Waxwing
Bronze Cuckoo
Group of Spermophilæ
Mexican or Green Jay
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogon
Leclancher or Rainbow Bunting
Flame-breasted Flower Pecker
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Senegal Parrot
Violet or Dusk Parrot
Uvæan Parrot
Black-winged Lory
Stella's Lory
A Beautiful Aviary (1/6)
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Queen Alexandra Parrakeet.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Exchange List: Will those members having bred Grassfinches and other groups during this year, who are willing to exchange (with other members to prevent in-breeding), please send in their names at once, as it is proposed to print a list of same in "Bird Notes" for January, 1912.

Exchanges: At the recent Council Meeting it was decided to form an exchange section under "The Bird Market," open to members only, at a nominal charge of two pence for each species named in the notice. Note: this only refers to Birds and Books (avicultural or ornithological).

Dealer's and Popular Names of Birds: See paragraph under Editorial in this issue.

Election of Council: In accordance with the notice in last issue, three members—Miss M. E. Baker, W. Bamford, W. C. Chaplin—retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election. Mr. Gray becomes an ex-officio member of the Council, and Mr. Tinniswood Miller wishes to retire, leaving five vacancies to be filled; and as only two names sent in, the following are duly elected: Miss M. E. Baker, W. C. Chaplin, W. Bamford, Dr. P. Gosse, A. Sutcliffe.

December Issue: We must of necessity go to press earlier than usual, owing to the compiling of indices, and for the same reason the issue must be about a week behind the usual date of publication.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Secretary.*

Illustration Fund.

The Committee beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations:

Dr. H. Hetley	1	1	0
Lady E. Douglas Pennant	0	10	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. Bonnick, Belmont, East Hoathly, Sussex. *By H. L. Sich.*
Frank Hansell, Bank House, Granton Road, Edinburgh. *By J. F. Dewar.*
S. A. Medwin, Cheniston House, Farnham, Surrey. *By C. Harris.*
Mrs. C. Barlow-Massicks, The Mount, Rotherham. *By the Hon. Editor.*
Americo de Barros, 39 Richmond Grove, Manchester, W. *By S. M. Townsend.*

New Members Elected.

Lacy Rumsey, 23 Rua de Serpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal.
Chas. E. Croker, Burrow Inche, Lower Bourne, Farnham.
E. R. Faux, Colmer, Cator Road, Sydenham, S.E.
Herbert Bright, Panton Road, Hoole, Chester,
Arthur C. Young, 15 Osborne Avenue, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

N. S. O'Reilly, 80, Marine Parade, Brighton.

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted patronage to Gateshead, and the following Shows: Other Shows receiving same will be announced in due course.

Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry, as it is not possible for a Secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the Judge otherwise.

BRADFORD.—Central Baths Hall, December 8th and 9th. Classification for six Classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Silver Cup for competition. Judge: Mr. H. T. T. Camps, F.Z.S. Schedules from Mr. H. Hill, 15 Settle Terrace, Thornton Lane, Bradford.

BLACKBURN.—December 15th and 16th.—Classification for five Classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge: Mr. J. Walsh. Schedules from Mr. J. Cook, 6 Charlotte Street,

The Show Committee wish to express their thanks to the donors of the following specials for the L.C.B.A. Show.

A Silver Medal or five shillings for most points in classes 176 to 179.

Ditto in Classes 181 to 183. Presented by Mr. Miller.

A pair of Yellow Budgerigars for most points in Class 180. presented by Mr. Mathias.

A Small Finch or Waxbill for the best exhibit in Class 181. Presented by Mr. Willford.

Half-a-crown for the best V.H.C. in Classes 184 and 187. Presented by Miss A. Smyth.

This last special was too late to appear in the Schedule, will members please note.

ERRATA. L.C.B.A. SCHEDULE. CLASS 187.

Owing to a printer's error the following birds, which should have been included in Class 187 have been omitted, viz.: Dyal-bird, White-cheeked, Red-eared, and Black Bulbuls.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

3 Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

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CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

WANTED: "Bird Notes," Vol. I., First Series, bound or in loose parts.—Apply, J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

WANTED : Book on Birds of Africa.—G. Bourke, 75, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, W.

FOR SALE : "Bird Notes," Vols. I. to V.; "Avicultural Magazine," Vols. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8, old series; "Transactions Zoological Society," Vol. 16, part 8 (on feathering of Birds); "Tegetmier's Pigeons" (out of print); "Nature Notes," Vols. 4, 5, and 8; "Eaton's Works on Pigeons; and many others. For further information and prices apply "Books," care of the Editor, "Bird Notes."

FOR SALE : Great Bower Bird's Bower, quite perfect. The following are offered as a job lot of native art, Stone, and Glass-headed Spears, Woorooms, Coolemans, Boomerangs, and Stone Axes.—Apply, W. H. Payne, 8, Walmesley Terrace, Snow Hill, Bath.

FOR SALE : Out-door aviary-bred pairs Zebra Finches 7s., 2 pairs 13s.; Diamond Doves 17s. 6d.; Saffron Finches 7s.; Green Cardinals 20s. each; 37s. 6d. pair. Many others. List on application. Housemoulted: Greenfinches, Chaffinches, 1s. 6d. each; pair White-crested Virginian Quail, 70s., rare; Rattigan Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gds., London, S.W.

BUDGERIGARS: Yellow and Green, out-door bred, young, and adult birds, cheap, to clear.—J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne.

WALSH'S
INSECTIVOROUS FOOD

HAS MANY IMITATORS,
but
NO EQUALS.

It has been used for over 20 years by most of the leading fanciers, and is still pronounced to be the ideal food for Nightingales, Blackcaps, Wagtails, Creepers, Warblers, Wrens, Tanagers, Shamas, Bulbuls, and all delicate British and Foreign Insectivorous Birds. Price 1s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s., 14 lbs., 17s. 6d.

LARGE MEALWORMS, 650 1s., 1,300 2s., 5s. lb. Boxes containing 6 lbs. 24s.
LIVE WHITE LIVER GENTLES, 1,000 7d., 2s. 6d. lb. Boxes containing 3 lbs. 4s.
ANTS' EGGS, 1s. 9d. lb., 3 lbs. 5s.
ANTS' EGGS, Special Quality, 2s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs., 7s.
DRIED FLIES, 2s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 7s.
FLAKED YOLK OF EGG, 4s. lb., 4½ lb. boxes 14s. 6d.
EGG BREAD, 1s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s.
SILKWORM PUPAE, 1s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s.
CARROT MEAL, 9d. lb., 3 lbs. 2s.
CRISSEL, 4d. lb., 7 lbs. 2s.
BISCUIT MEAL, 2½d. lb., 5 lbs. 1s.
PEA AND BEAN MEAL, 2½d. lb., 5 lbs. 1s.
RICE MEAL, 2½d. lb., 5 lbs. 1s.
SPECIAL OATMEAL 2½d. lb., 5 lbs. 1s.
GENUINE ITALIAN WHITE MILLET, 3½d. lb., 14 lbs. 3s. 6d., 28 lbs. 6s., 23s. 6d. per cwt.
GENUINE INDIAN MILLET, 2½d. lb., 14 lbs. 2s. 6d., 18s. cwt.
SPRAY MILLETS, large full sprays, 9d. per dozen, 2s. 3d. per bundle of 50.
PADDY RICE, 3½ lbs. 14 lbs. 3s. 6d.

Samples and Catalogues Free.

CLEANLINESS A SPECIALITY.

**WALSH, Bird Food Specialist,
Blackburn.**

Telephone 947.

FOR SALE : 6 fine Canaries from garden aviary. Also, suitable as pets for Xmas presents : Two King Charles and Blenheim puppies, and a Chinchilla kitten.—Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

FOR SALE : Adult unrelated Green Budgerigars 6s. pair, cocks 2s. 6d., yellow cocks 3s. 6d., young greens 4s. 6d. pair. Adult Zebra Finches 6s. 6d. pair; reliable breeders; all bred in my garden aviaries.—J. Ford, 258, Welford Road, Leicester.

FOR SALE : Golden Pheasant, cock, adult, full plumage, one guinea; this year's birds one guinea per pair; also one pair Californian Quails.—W. H. Fisher, Bush Hotel, Farnham.

FOR SALE : Several cock Zebra Finches, four Amadavats, sex not guaranteed, all aviary bred, 3s. each.—H. L. Sich, Park Lodge, East Hoathly, Sussex.

WANTED to exchange an aviary bred cock Zebra Finch for the same.—H. L. Sich, Park Lodge, East Hoathly, Sussex.

FOR SALE : One Purple Sunbird (cock), has been in Owner's possession in aviary most of summer, sings well, £6. Two pairs Parson Finches 25s. per pair. All the above are in exhibition condition and very healthy.—Apply, Hon. Mrs. Bampfylde, Court Hall, North Molton, N. Devon.

WANTED : Hen Australian King Parrakeet, Hen Hooded Parrakeet, Hen Painted Finch, Hen Violet Waxbill, Cock Red-headed Gouldian Finch.—Miss Clare, The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

Review of the Bird Market.

Many interesting birds have been on offer from trade and private sources. Among other consignments that received by De Von and Co., on October 16th must take a prominent place. It consisted of:

4 Green Pittas.
32 Purple Sunbirds.
32 Amethyst-rumped Sunbirds.
17 Shamas.
8 Blue-cheeked Barbets.
2 Red-eyed Barbets.
4 Golden Orioles.
7 Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers
1 pair Finch Larks.
2 Pied Mynahs.
2 Greater Hill Mynahs.
23 Ring-necked Parrakeets.

Also a very recent consignment of Bearded Tits from Holland. Mr. Willford has also received among many others, Bare-throated Bell birds, Spotted-billed Toucanets, etc.

Also the following have been or still are on offer and obtainable from the usual sources (*see list under "Review" in October "B.N.,"* also advertisements under "Bird Market." in this issue: Green Cardinals, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Nonpareil Bunting, Silver-eared Mesias, Electus Parrots, Bauer's Blue-bonnet Parrakeets, Bleeding Heart (Blood-breasted) Pigeons, Carolina Parrot, Scarlet, Blue, Superb, and Blue-shouldered Tanagers, Drongos, Flycatchers, Carolina, and Black-headed Conures, Black-crested Bunting, Sikhim Siskins, Virginian Cardinals, Black Redstarts, Blue-throated Warblers, Mexican Blue Thrush, etc. Also a good variety of the "Freely Imported Species." Just on going to press we note, quite a lengthy list of rare and uncommon species, covering many Orders, offered in the Fancy Press by Mr. O. Millsum. W.T.P.

List of Coloured Plates

(By request), which have been published in *Bird Notes*. 1s. each, with the exception of a "Beautiful Aviary," which is 1s. 6d.

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Hawk-headed Caique
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugar Bird
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Painted Finch
Sepoy Finch
Blue Budgerigars
The Uvæan Parrakeet
Loo-Choo Robin.

Gouldian Finch
Waxwing
Bronze Cuckoo
Group of Spermophilæ
Mexican or Green Jay
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogon
Leclancher or Rainbow Bunting
Flame-breasted Flower Pecker
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Senegal Parrot
Violet or Dusk Parrot
Uvæan Parrot
Black-winged Lory
Stella's Lory
A Beautiful Aviary (1/6)
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Queen Alexandra Parrakeet.

DECEMBER, 1911.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Year's Work: With this issue another volume of *Bird Notes* is completed, and while fully realising its short-comings, we think, all will agree that it compares favourably with its predecessors.

The present volume contains five coloured plates, viz., "Blue Budgerigar," "Loo-Choo Robin," "Purple Sunbird and Great Billed Flycatcher," "Queen Alexandra Parrakeet," and Crimson-ringed Whydah." The almost numberless half-tone and line illustrations are all of them of either utilitarian or scientific interest; among our photo-reproductions, special mention must be made of those contributed by our esteemed Hon. Bus. Sec., H. Willford, Esq., illustrating the domestic life of various species both in their native haunts and in the aviary.

There is over 350 pages of text, practically covering all species of birds, and every phase of practical aviculture. The tyro, experienced aviculturist, and also the ornithologist, will find matter in our pages both of practical and scientific interest. To all our contributors and those who have assisted to bring this about we tender our grateful thanks and appreciation.

Breeding Medals: These have stimulated emulation among us, and the number won is quite up to the average—several difficult species have been bred for the first time in this country, viz., Hoopoe, Black-throated Bunting, Black-headed Siskin, Blue Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Guira Cuckoo, Indian White-eye, Orange-headed Ground Thrush, Mexican Bunting, Mealy Redpoll, Silver-eared Mesia, and Grey Finch—the list is however, not yet complete and a full list of awards will be published in January issue and the medals forthwith distributed.

Our Membership: This continues to steadily increase, and in spite of the leakage common to all such societies as ours, our roll will show a substantial increase on that of the previous year. We still urge our members to do all they can to make the F.B.C. known to all interested in birds, that this increase may be more than maintained, *what the few cannot accomplish, the many can.* In all sections of the Club's work progress has been made.

Exhibitional: This has been fully maintained, there is yet scope for extension, and I am sure our Hon. Exhibitional Secretary, Mr. S. M. Townsend, would be better pleased if more interest was taken in queries and notices inserted under "The Show Season," and express their views thereon more freely, and also to do their best to support any extension of classification, so that such may be maintained and not withdrawn for lack of support list of winners of club medals and cups will be issued at the end of the season 1911-1912.

THE FUTURE: As regards the Magazine, all its present features will be retained, and if the members will all keep aviary log books, and send in their records from time to time, our present standard will be more than maintained. We would remind all that our scope covers all families of birds both Foreign or Indigenous species. We should like to see more regular use made of the Journal's Correspondence Section..

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We congratulate the members on a most successful year's work.

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The Committee beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations:

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Mrs. C. Barlow-Massicks, The Mount, Rotherham.
Frank Hansell, Bank House, Granton Road, Edinburgh.
S. A. Medwin, Cheniston House, Farnham, Surrey.
Americo de Barros, 39 Richmond Grove, Manchester, W.
F. J. Andrews, Gordon House, Woodbridge, Sussex.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Miss E. Maud Knobel, 32, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.
Arthur J. C. Lowe, 9, Rectory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.
D. G. Hatchell, Grosvenor Club, Picadilly, London, W.
By the Hon. Editor.
Miss Vera Bromwich, 12, Hill Street, Rutland Gate, London, S.W.
By S. M. Townsend.
Ernest Valentine, 7, Highfield, Workington. *By J. Frostick.*

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

L. W. Wood, 35, Billing Street, Northampton.
Allen Silver, 303, High Road, Streatham, London, S.W.

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted patronage to the following shows:

Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry, as it is not possible for a Secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the Judge otherwise.

EDINBURGH, Scottish National Show.—Dec. 30th, and January 1st. Classification for six Classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Silver Cup for competition (see rules). Judge, Mr. J. F. Dewar. Schedules from Mr. A. W. Watson, 58, Colinton Road, Edinburgh.

L. and P.O.S., National Show.—Crystal Palace.—February 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th. Classification for ten classes for Foreign Birds. Two Silver Medals and London Silver Cup for competition. Judges, Messrs. H. T. Camps, and F. Finn. Schedules from Mr. J. W. Ramsden, 11 Josephine Avenue, Brixton, London, S.W.

The Show Committee wish to thank Miss A. Smyth for presenting a special (2s. 6d.) for the best v.h.c. in the Tanager and Sugarbird Classes. They will be glad to hear from any other member who will kindly present a special.

S. M. TOWNSEND.
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

The Bird Market.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Miss Amy C. Eccles, The Glade, Ditton Hill, Surrey.
By H. W. Mathias.

Mrs. Murilla Cyril Wood, 8, Onslow Crescent, London, S.W.
By C. R. Tyson.

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This year stands out as remarkable for the number of new species that have become known to aviculture in its various aspects. These are far too numerous to specify, and other species are still on offer.

We have been pleased to note the influx of a few pairs of Violet-eared Waxbills, Melba Finches, African White-eyes, Black-faced, and Blue-breasted Waxbills, and Quail Finches, very few of which, if any, remain on offer.

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Rosey, Miss.
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and many others.

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JANUARY 1911.

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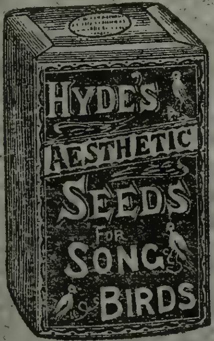
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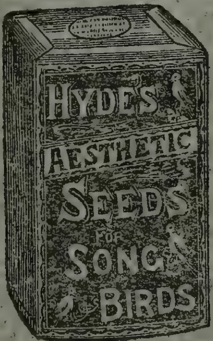
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Edited by WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

MARCH, 1911.

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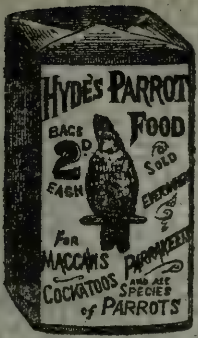
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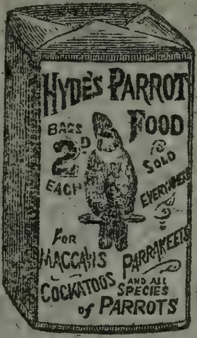
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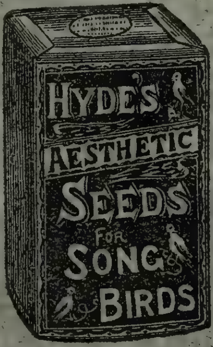
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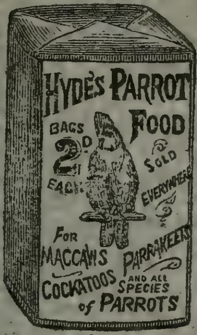
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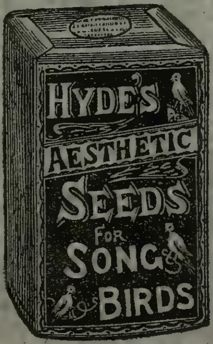
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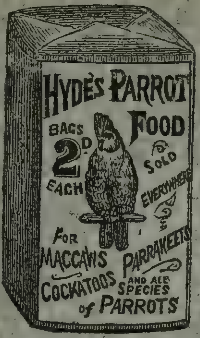
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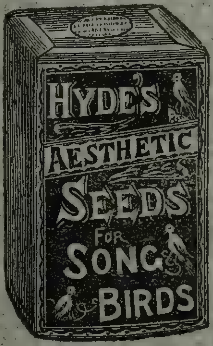
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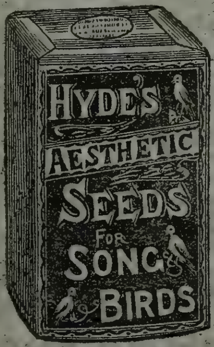
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